国民クイズ

NATIONAL QUIZ 3

3

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
MANGASCREENER

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STORY
SUGIMOTO REIICHI

ART
KATOH SHINKICHI

TRANSLATOR: EMPEROR KETCHUP

EDITOR: GATSU

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KOKUMIN QUIZ 3

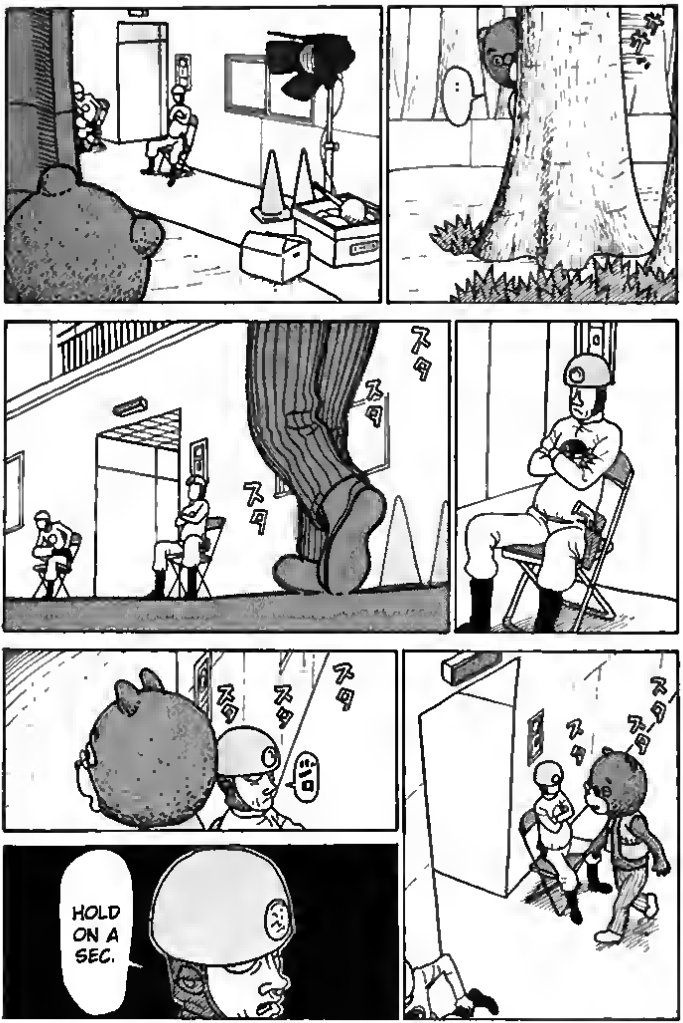
CONTENTS

第23話

ESCAPE!

SOMEONE'S HERE TO REQUEST A MEETING WITH K-I!?
WHO ...?
HIS DAUGHTER.
THIS IS GONNA GET UGLY.
I THINK SO...
DAUGH ....
MARIKO ...!?

MARIKO IS.....
BUT WHY ..... !?
HM...
HM MM MNN...
HM MM MNN...
WON'T MEETING HIS DAUGHTER BE ROUGH FOR K-I, ESPECIALLY AFTER THAT ATTACK?
YEAH, SO WHAT I THINK IS...
THE HIGHER-UPS ARE GOING TO RUB THIS OUT AND PRETEND IT NEVER HAPPENED.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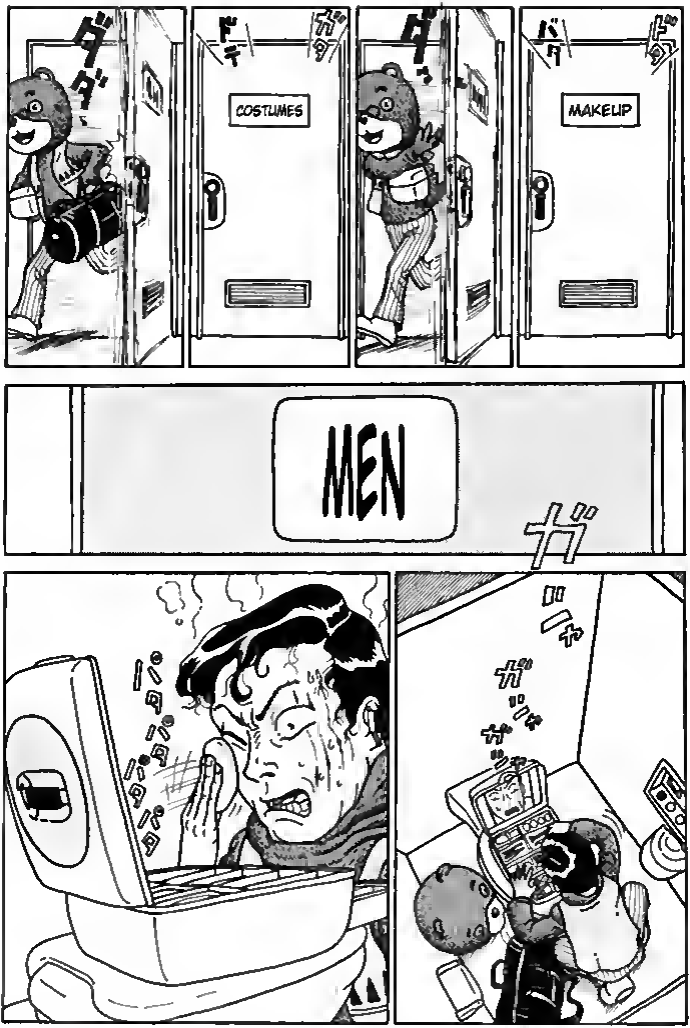
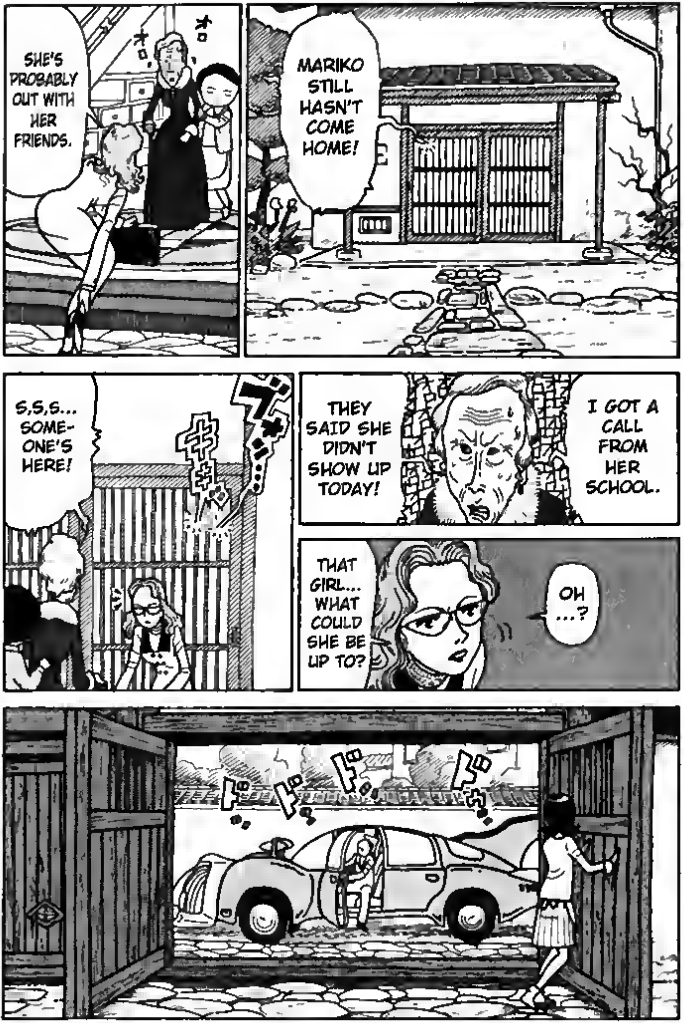
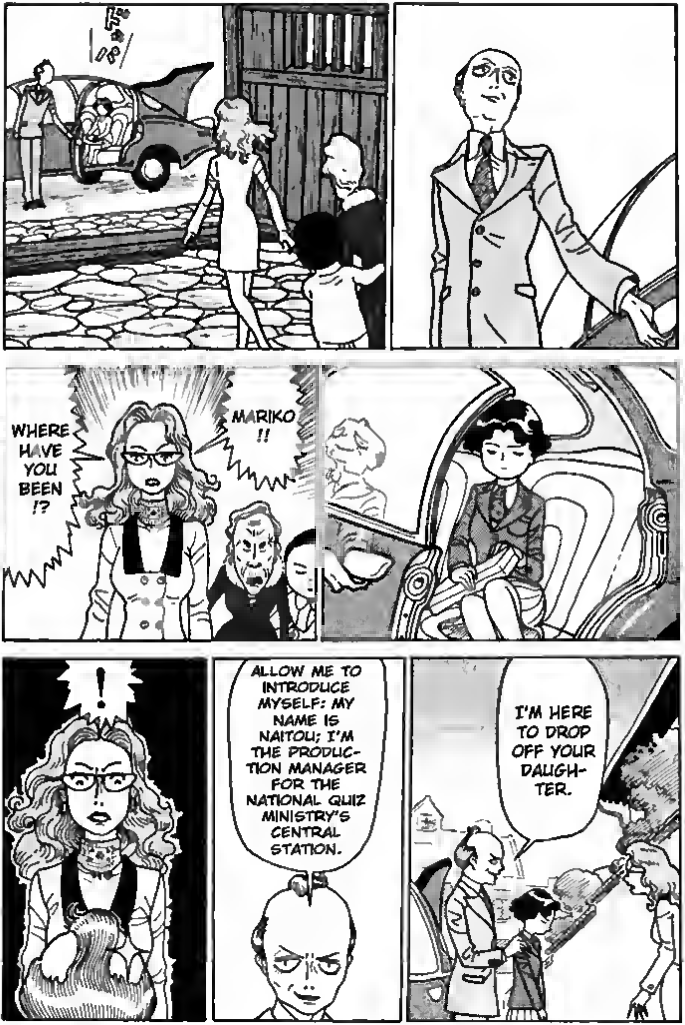
HOLD ON A SEC.

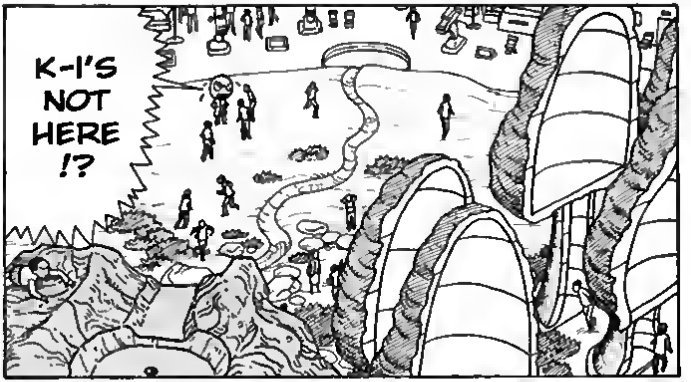
MIND IF I GET A PICTURE? IT'S A SOUVENIR FOR MY DAUGHTER.
THANKS
WHEW
D
A
THANKS A LOT!


COSTUMES
MAKEUP
MEN

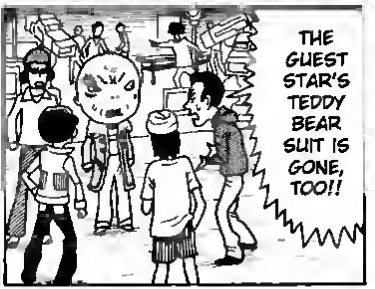

SHE'S PROBABLY OUT WITH HER FRIENDS.
オロ
MARIKO STILL HASN'T COME HOME!
S,S,S... SOME-ONE'S HERE!
ドキドキ
THEY SAID SHE DIDN'T SHOW UP TODAY!
I GOT A CALL FROM HER SCHOOL.
THAT GIRL... WHAT COULD SHE BE UP TO?
OH ...?
ドドドドドドドド


WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN !?
MARIKO !!
!
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF: MY NAME IS NAITOU; I'M THE PRODUCTION MANAGER FOR THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY'S CENTRAL STATION.
I'M HERE TO DROP OFF YOUR DAUGHTER.

WE HAVE CLOSED FOR TODAY.
TOO BAD. COME BACK TOMORROW.

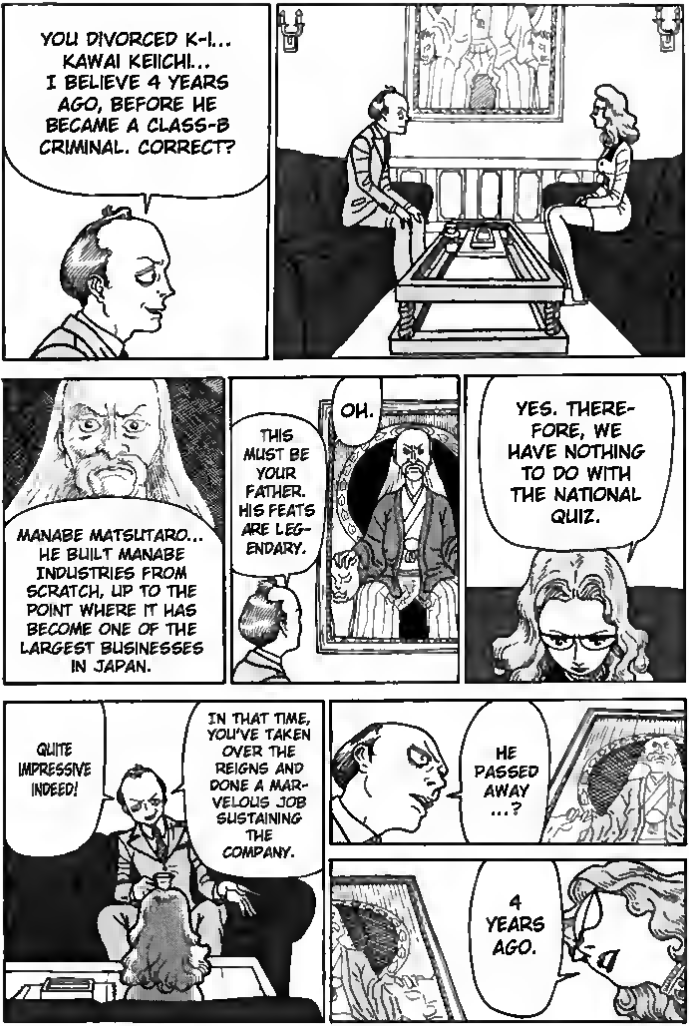

K-I'S NOT HERE !?

I LEFT IT BEHIND THE SET WHILE I WENT TO THE BATH-ROOM, AND WHEN I CAME BACK, IT WAS GONE ...!

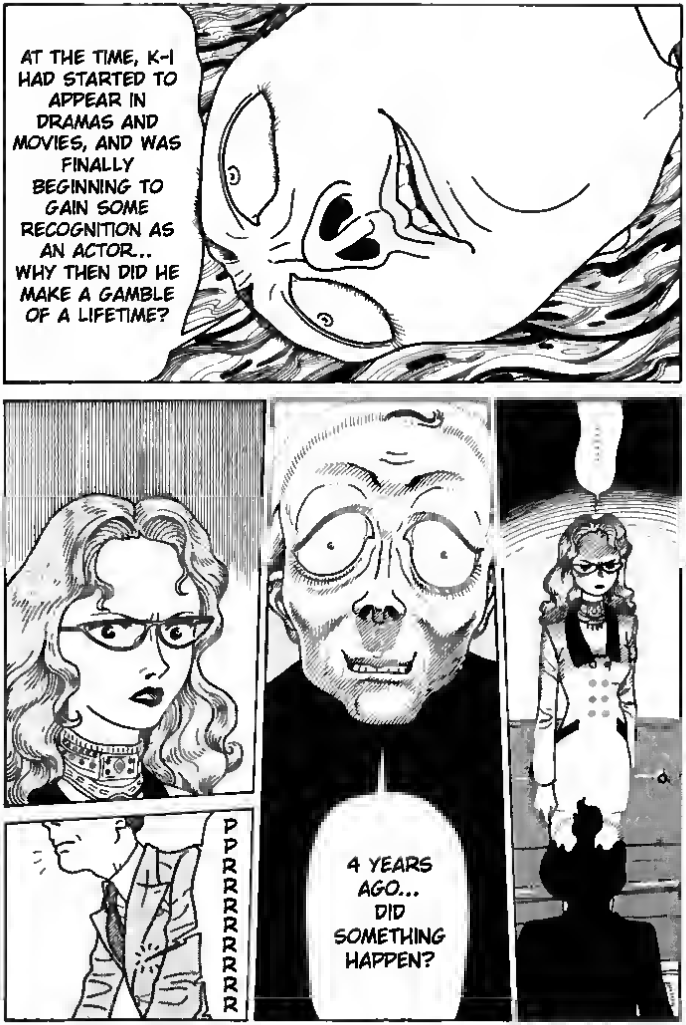

THE GUEST STAR'S TEDDY BEAR SUIT IS GONE, TOO!!

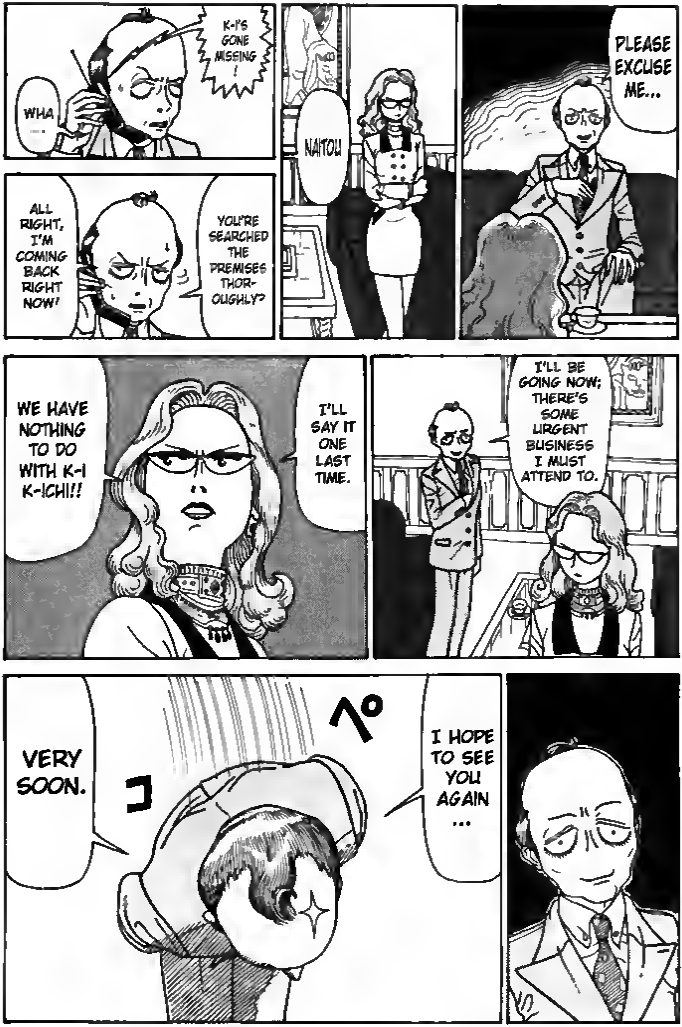
CALL SECURITY !!

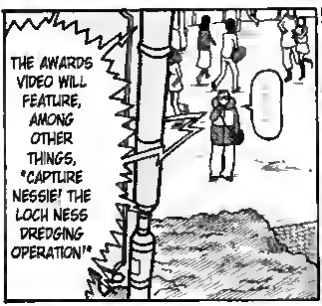
YOU IDIOTS !!
GAAAHHH!!

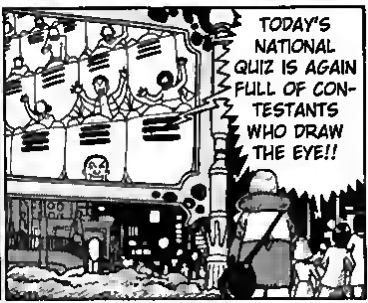

YOU DIVORCED K-I... KAWAI KEIICHI... I BELIEVE 4 YEARS AGO, BEFORE HE BECAME A CLASS-B CRIMINAL. CORRECT?
4 YEARS AGO.
HE PASSED AWAY ...?
IN THAT TIME, YOU'VE TAKEN OVER THE REIGNS AND DONE A MARVELOUS JOB SUSTAINING THE COMPANY.
QUITE IMPRESSIVE INDEED!
YES. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NATIONAL QUIZ.
OH.
THIS MUST BE YOUR FATHER. HIS FEATS ARE LEGENDARY.
MANABE MATSUTARO... HE BUILT MANABE INDUSTRIES FROM SCRATCH, UP TO THE POINT WHERE IT HAS BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST BUSINESSES IN JAPAN.

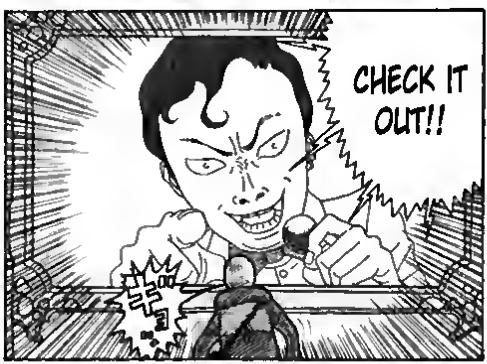
!
YOUR FATHER WAS OPPOSED TO YOU MARRYING SOME UNKNOWN ACTOR, WAS HE NOT?
HOWEVER...
ふぅ
NONE OF THIS HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME. PLEASE LEAVE!!
IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT ABOUT KEIICHI-SAN'S PAST, WHY DON'T YOU ASK *HIM!*?
WHAT WAS THE REAL REASON HE COMPETED ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ?
AND I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ASK YOU ABOUT IT.
THERE'S ONE THING THAT HE WILL NOT TELL US ABOUT.


AT THE TIME, K-I HAD STARTED TO APPEAR IN DRAMAS AND MOVIES, AND WAS FINALLY BEGINNING TO GAIN SOME RECOGNITION AS AN ACTOR.. WHY THEN DID HE MAKE A GAMBLE OF A LIFETIME?
PPRRRRRRRR
4 YEARS AGO... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?


K-I'S GONE MISSING!
WHA...
NAITOU
PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
YOU'RE SEARCHED THE PREMISES THOR-OUGHLY?
ALL RIGHT, I'M COMING BACK RIGHT NOW!
I'LL SAY IT ONE LAST TIME.
WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH K-I K-ICHI!!
I'LL BE GOING NOW; THERE'S SOME URGENT BUSINESS I MUST ATTEND TO.
I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN...
VERY SOON.


THE AWARDS VIDEO WILL FEATURE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, "CAPTURE NESSIE! THE LOCH NESS DREDGING OPERATION"


TODAY'S NATIONAL QUIZ IS AGAIN FULL OF CONTESTANTS WHO DRAW THE EYE!!


CHECK IT OUT!!

YOU'LL BE OVERWHELMING BOMBARDED WITH THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR!!

18:31
THE NATIONAL QUIZ AIRS TONIGHT AT 7!!
MARIKO ...
MARIKO
MARIKO
MARIKO
MARIKO
MARIKO
MARIKO
MARIKO
MARIKO

HOW'S GRAND-MOTHER DOING?
YES.
LEAVE ?
DID THAT GUY ...
HA HA ...
DID YOU THINK THAT I WOULD BE OPPOSED TO IT?
MARIKO .. WHY DID YOU REQUEST A MEETING WITH YOUR FATHER WITHOUT TELLING ME?
SCREAMING ABOUT HOW I BLEMISHED THE MANABE FAMILY NAME
SHE'S IN HER BEDROOM SHE TOOK SOME TRANQUILIZERS - SHE WAS BAWLING HER EYES OUT

I'LL WORRY EVEN MORE IF YOU DON'T TELL ME ANY-THING.
YOU'RE KEIICHI-SAN'S DAUGH-TER, MARIKO.
MOM ...
I DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU WORRY...
I...
I DON'T THINK OF K-I K-ICHI AS MY FATHER.
BECAUSE I WANTED TO KNOW!
THEN... WHY DID YOU TRY TO MEET HIM?

I WANTED TO WHY K-I K-ICHI ABANDONED US, AND COMPETED ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ!!
EO

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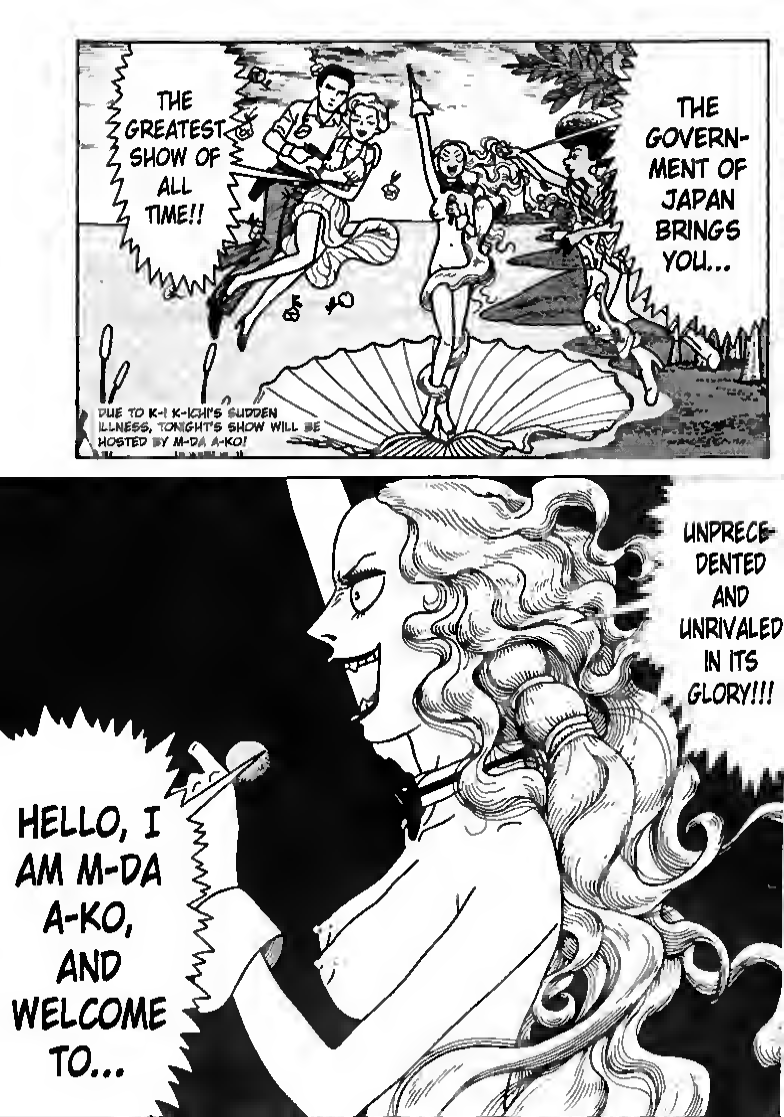
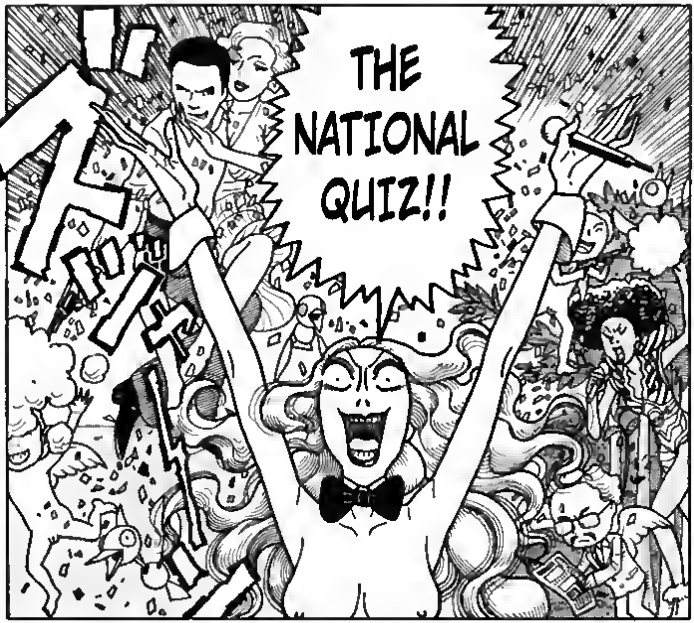
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE!?
CHAPTER 23 - ESCAPE! / END

TRANSLATOR: EMPEROR KETCHUP

第24話

VENUS AND THE FUGITIVE


THE GREATEST SHOW OF ALL TIME!!
THE GOVERN-MENT OF JAPAN BRINGS YOU...
DUE TO K-I K-ICHI'S SUDDEN ILLNESS, TONIGHT'S SHOW WILL BE HOSTED BY M-DA A-KO!
UNPRECE-DENTED AND UNRIVALED IN ITS GLORY!!!
HELLO, I AM M-DA A-KO, AND WELCOME TO...


THE NATIONAL QUIZ!!

TO BECOME THE MAIN HOST!!
THIS IS IT...! THIS WAS MY DREAM!

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION!!

国民クイズ
THIS SHOW IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AND THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY.
A-KO!!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU!!

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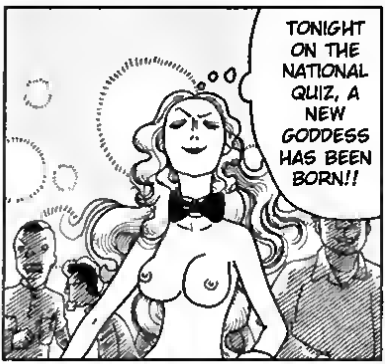
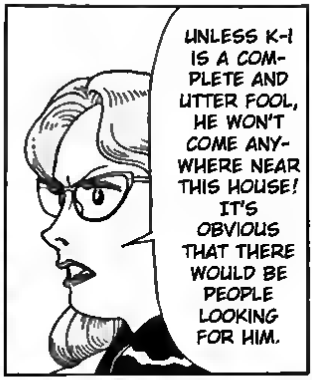

TONIGHT ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ, A NEW GODDESS HAS BEEN BORN!!

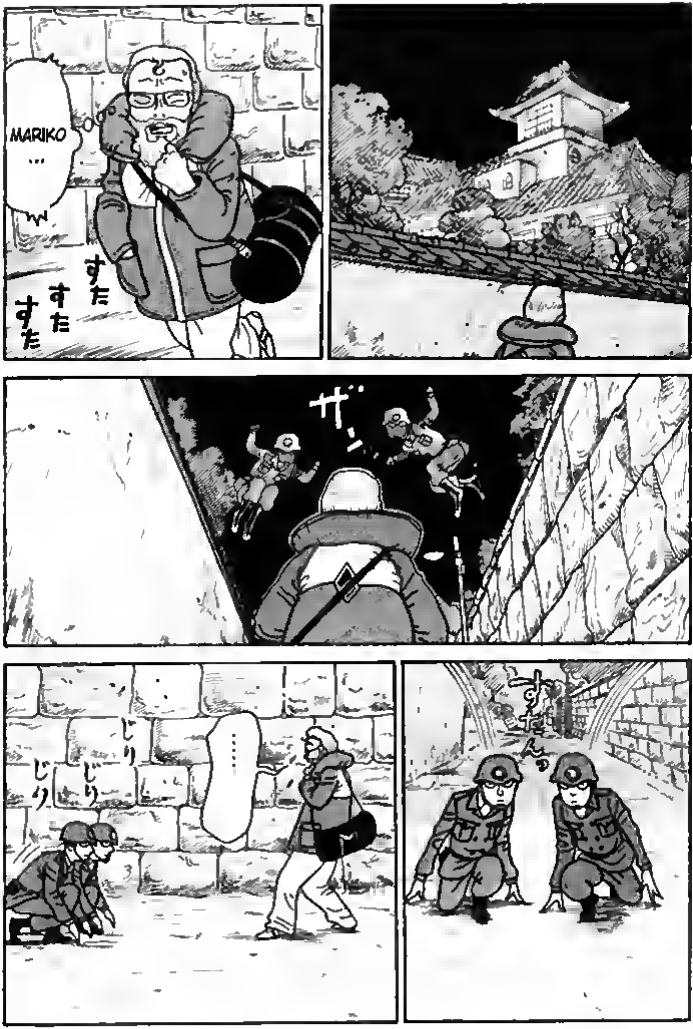
LEAVE EVERY-THING TO ME!! I DON'T NEED K-I!!

GET THE WORD OUT TO ALL SQUADRONS: WE TAKE HIM ALIVE! HE MUST BE CAPTURE UNHARMED! I REPEAT: HE MUST BE CAPTURED UNHARMED!
GOOD.
ALL STAFF IS IN PLACE!
DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK THAT K-1 IS GOING TO COME HERE?
HAH...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE HE CAN TURN TO FOR HELP.
IF HE DOES SHOW, IT'LL PROBABLY BE IN THE EARLY MORNING. WE'VE ALSO PUT THE MANABE INDUSTRIES OFFICE UNDER SURVEIL-LANCE.

K-I MIGHT BE AN EVEN BIGGER FOOL THAN YOU THINK, LADY...
HAHAHA ... GOING AWOL DOESN'T SEEM VERY SANE TO ME...


UNLESS K-I IS A COMPLETE AND UTTER FOOL, HE WON'T COME ANYWHERE NEAR THIS HOUSE! IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THERE WOULD BE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR HIM.

A SUSPICIOUS FIGURE IS APPROACHING FROM 4TH AVENUE!


MARIKO
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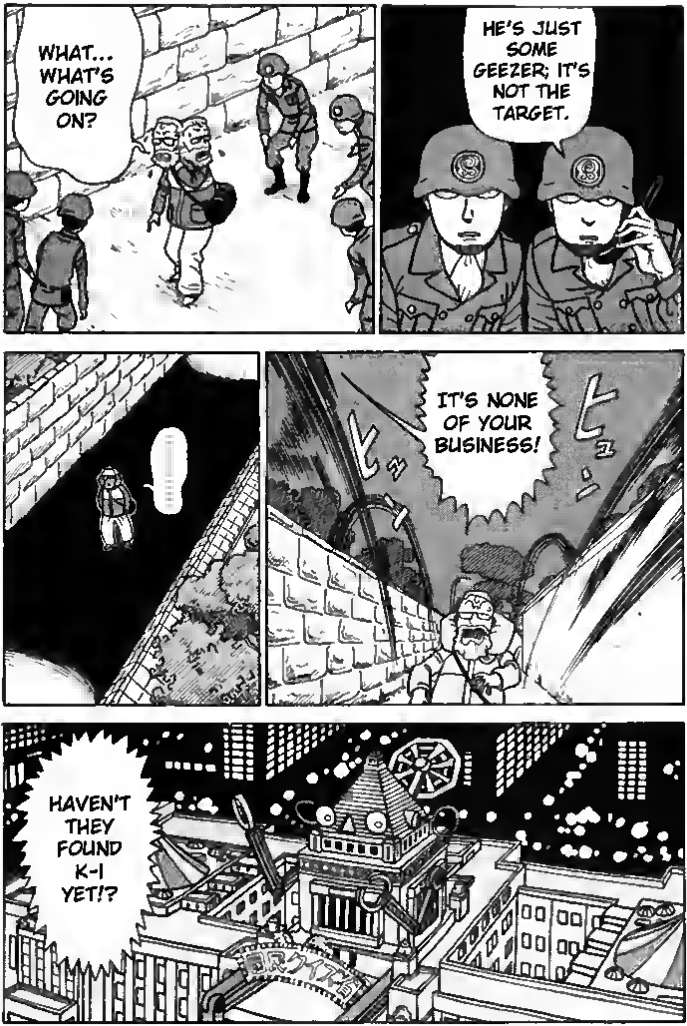
……
すたん?


WHAT... WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE'S JUST SOME GEEZER; IT'S NOT THE TARGET.
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
HAVEN'T THEY FOUND K-1 YET!?

IN THE MEANTIME, THERE ARE OTHER THINGS THAT WE MUST DO.
HNN GH
HNN GH ...
HNNGH
NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN.
HAVE SOME FAITH IN CAPTAIN MURAKOSHI. GIVE HIM SOME TIME.
WE HAVE TO DO A COVER UP.
WE HAVE TO DO A COVER UP. AFTER THE SHOW IS OVER, I'M GOING TO ATTEND A PRESS CONFERENCE.
WHAT, LIKE WRITING OUR RESIGNATIONS AND FINDING A NEW JOB!?
IF WE CLAIMED THAT K-1 MISSED THE SHOW DUE TO ILLNESS, WE HAVE TO ANNOUNCE THE DETAILS OF K-1'S CONDITION TO THE MEDIA.
PRESS CONFERENCE?

YES ...
UNDER-STOOD ...
I REQUEST ORDERS AS TO HOW I SHOULD CARRY OUT THIS OPER-ATION!
COME ON... IT'S TIME TO ACT!
ガチャ

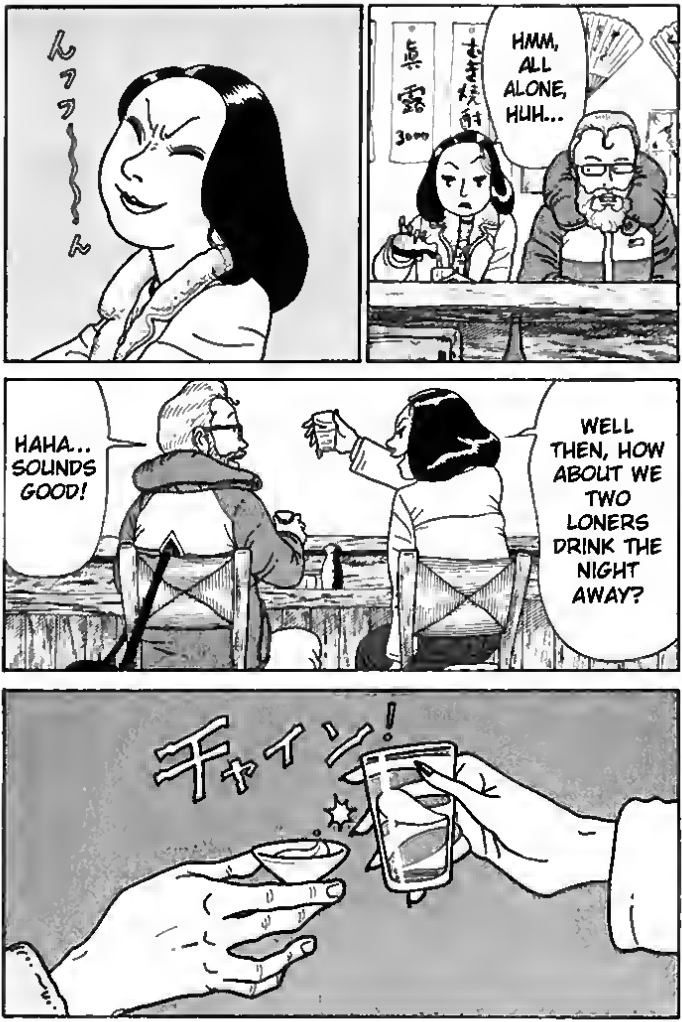
?
IT LOOKS LIKE A PRESS CONFERENCE REGARDING K-I...
WHAT IS THIS?
YES... THESE ARE HIS MEDICAL CHARTS.
WHAT EXACTLY IS K-I K-ICHI'S DIAGNOSIS!?

THERE ARE RUMORS THAT M-DA A-KO WILL BE PROMOTED TO THE POSITION OF MAIN HOST!
HE ONLY HAS A SIMPLE COLD, BUT AS A PRE-CAUTION WE HAD HIM TAKE THE NIGHT OFF.
WHEN DO YOU EXPECT HIM TO BE BACK!?
HIS APPROVAL RATING IS AT 98% NOW!
OH NO, I WOULDN'T EVEN CONSIDER REPLAC-ING K-I.
...EVEN IF I AM COUGHING UP BLOOD."
K-I'S OWN WORDS WERE "I WANT TO BE BACK FOR TOMORROW'S NATIONAL QUIZ...

K-I K-ICHI IS THE CROWN JEWEL IN THE NATIONAL QUIZ!
IN ANY CASE, WE WILL HAVE HIM CONTINUE TO HOST THE SHOW.
IF HE DIES, I'M GOING TO CELE-BRATE LIKE CRAZY, DAMNIT.
HEH, THAT DAMN K-I! HE SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT SOMETHING NASTIER AND DROPPED DEAD!
THIS ONE TIME, MY DAD COMPETED ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ.
DON'T YOU THINK SO, OLD GUY!?
HM? HMM ...

BUT WE COULDN'T FIND A MATCHING DONOR.
MY MOM GOT LEUKEMIA, YOU KNOW, AND THE ONLY WAY SHE COULD SURVIVE WAS IF SHE GOT A BONE-MARROW TRANSPLANT...
WHAT WAS HIS WISH ?
REALLY ...
RIGHT NOW HE'S DOING FORCED LABOR IN SIBERIA!
HE LOST IN THE FINAL ROUND, AND WAS BRANDED A CLASS-B CRIMINAL!
SO MY DAD WENT ON THE QUIZ TO ASK THEM TO FIND A DONOR.
DID HE WIN?
YOUR MOTHER ...?

THE SHOCK WAS TOO MUCH FOR HER... AND A MONTH LATER... SHE DIED, TOO...
HE REALLY DOES ...
Y... YEAH
RIGHT !?
I KNOW IT'S NOT K-I'S FAULT, BUT HE'S THE SYMBOL OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ!! SO HE HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO TAKE ON THE CITIZENS' ANGER TOO!!
HMM ...?
I DON'T ... HAVE A FAMILY ...
ME? HEHE HE...
HOW ABOUT YOU, GRAMPS? ANY IDIOTS IN YOUR FAMILY WHO DECIDED TO GO ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ?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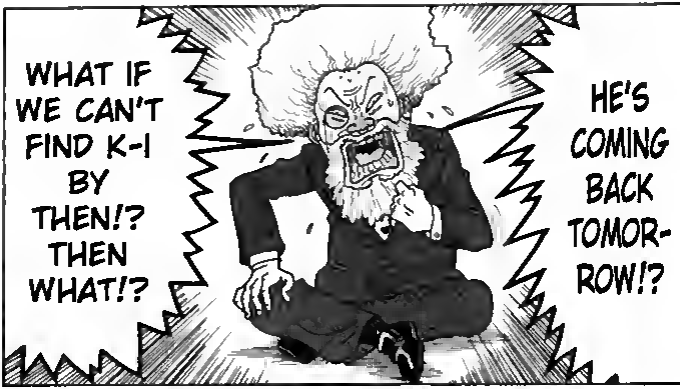
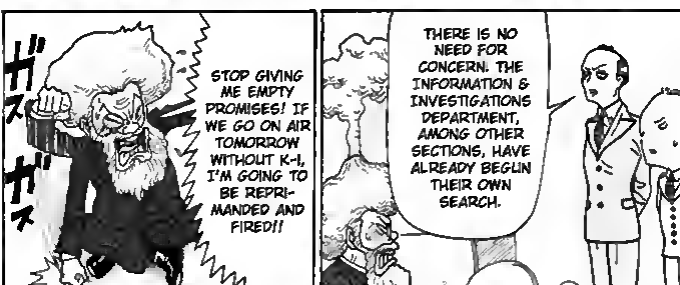
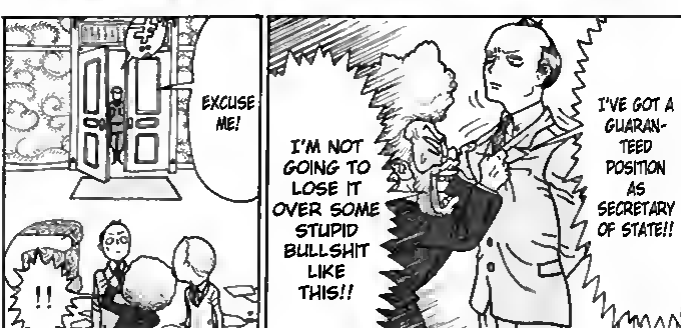
HMM, ALL ALONE, HUH...
HAHA... SOUNDS GOOD!
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT WE TWO LONERS DRINK THE NIGHT AWAY?
チャイン！


WHAT IF WE CAN'T FIND K-I BY THEN!? THEN WHAT!?
HE'S COMING BACK TOMOR-ROW!?


ガズ ガズ
STOP GIVING ME EMPTY PROMISES! IF WE GO ON AIR TOMORROW WITHOUT K-I, I'M GOING TO BE REPRI-MANDED AND FIRED!!
THERE IS NO NEED FOR CONCERN. THE INFORMATION & INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT, AMONG OTHER SECTIONS, HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THEIR OWN SEARCH.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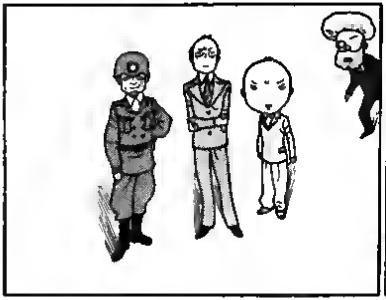
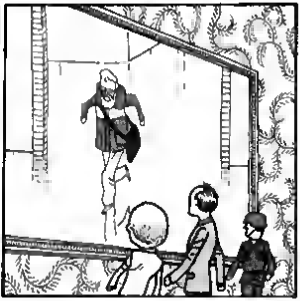
EXCUSE ME!
!!
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE IT OVER SOME STUPID BULLSHIT LIKE THIS!!
I'VE GOT A GUARAN-TEED POSITION AS SECRETARY OF STATE!!

K-I... HAVE YOU CAUGHT K-I!?
GAR RRR HH!!

ONE OF MY MEN FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING AT THE REJECTEE ADMINISTRATION

M... M... MURAKOSHI!! IF YOU CAN'T FIND K-I, I'M TAKING YOU DOWN WITH ME!!





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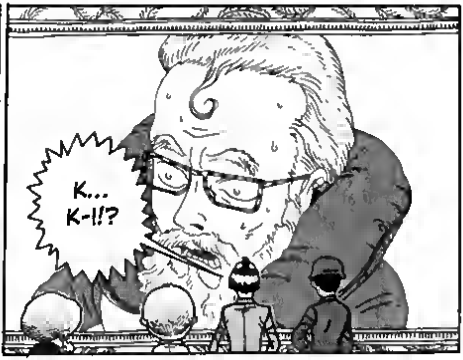
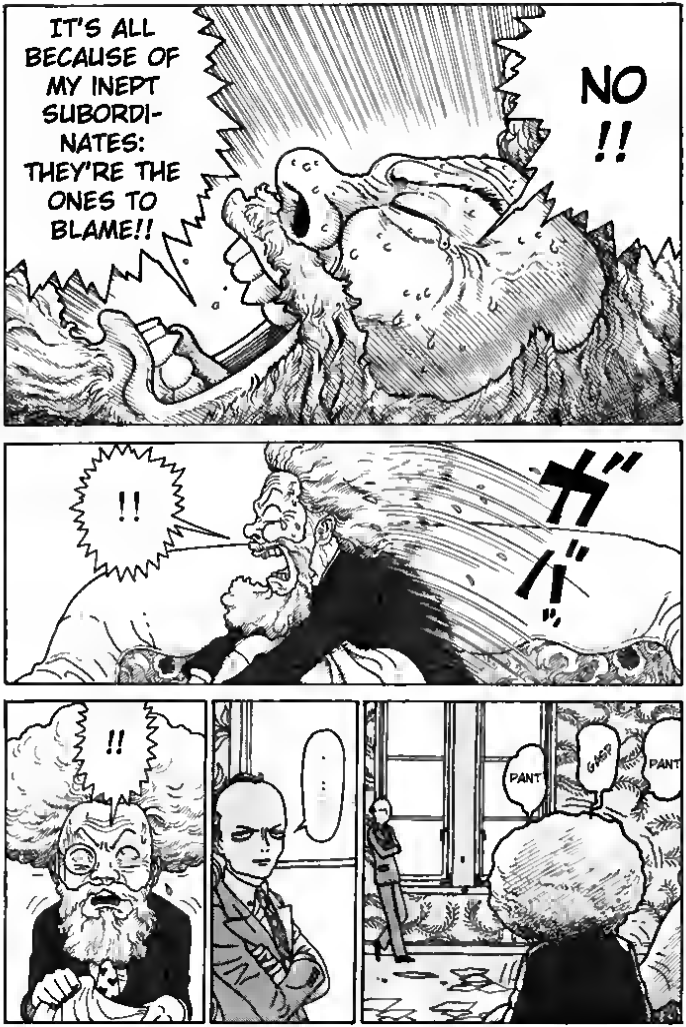

K... K-I!?

IT'S ACTUALLY CONVE-NIENT THAT HE'S UNDER DISGUISE! I HAVE AN IDEA.
IF WE KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE, FINDING HIM WILL BE EASY.
THAT'S RIGHT... WE'D FORGOTTEN THAT HE WAS AN ACTOR!
OH HHH... ...
UH HH...
YEAH! GO TO HELL, K-I K-ICHI!!
SCREW THE NATIONAL QUIZ!

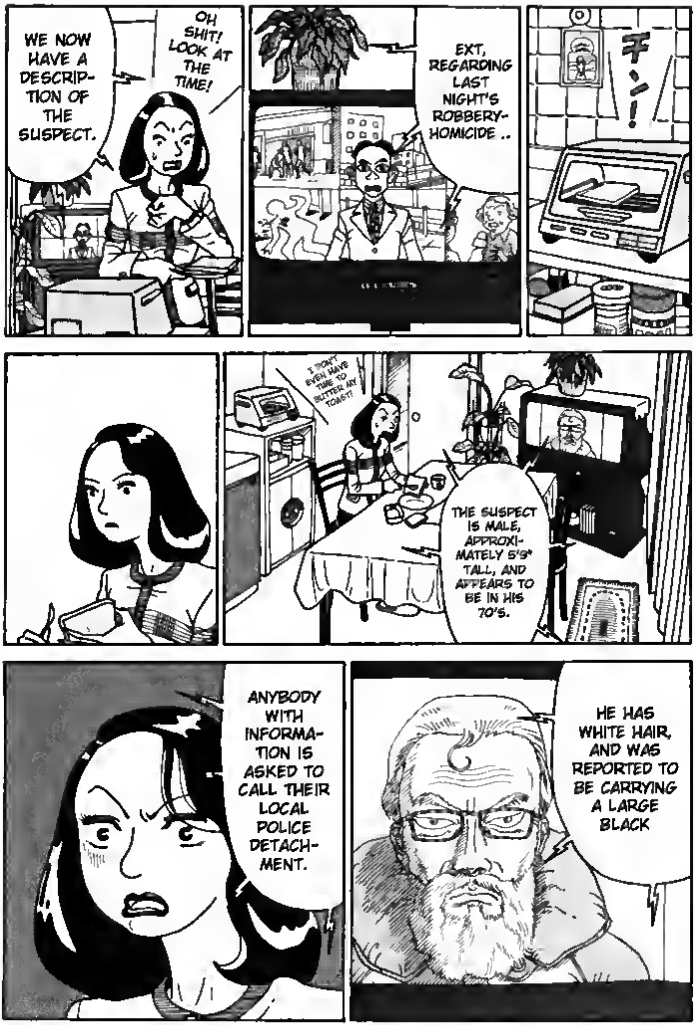
第25話
SCUM
TRANSLATOR:
EMPEROR
KETCHUP

KILLING ME WON'T CHANGE ANY-THING!!
H... HEY...! DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET AWAY WITH THIS!?
NAITOU!! DO SOME-THING!!
MURAKOSHI!! ARE YOU SERIOUS!?
FOR THE CRIME OF ALLOWING K-I K-ICHI TO ESCAPE, THE CENTRAL DIRECTOR WILL NOW FACE THE FIRING SQUAD!!
DON'T WORRY; WE HAVE NO SHORTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO CAN REPLACE YOU.
FIRE !!
DON'T !!
NO! DON'T! LET'S TALK THIS OUT! IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!
AIM!


IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF MY INEPT SUBORDI-NATES: THEY'RE THE ONES TO BLAME!!
NO !!
!!
ガバ
!!
...
PANT
GASP
PANT

K-I!! DID THEY FIND K-I!?
HUH ...?
TH... THEN, WHERE'S MURAKOSHI!?
HE WENT BACK TO THE MANABE RESIDENCE.
H... HEY ...
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN FIND HIM BEFORE TONIGHT'S NATIONAL QUIZ STARTS!?
I'VE TAKEN ALL OF THE NECESSARY STEPS! NOW, HAVE SOME COFFEE TO WAKE YOURSELF UP.
WE'VE ONLY GOT ANOTHER ... 12 HOURS!!

HEY, GRAMPS !
GRAMPS
MAN ...
WAKE UP! I'VE GOTTA GO TO WORK!
C'MON, GRAMPS !
YOU SLUT, YOU'RE SLEEPIN WITH A GEEZER !?
YUJI WOULD KILL ME IF HE SAW THIS.


WE NOW HAVE A DESCRIPTION OF THE SUSPECT.
OH SHIT! LOOK AT THE TIME!
EXT, REGARDING LAST NIGHT'S ROBBERY-HOMICIDE ..
チン!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO BUTTER MY TOAST!
THE SUSPECT IS MALE, APPROXIMATELY 5'9" TALL, AND APPEARS TO BE IN HIS 70'S.
ANYBODY WITH INFORMATION IS ASKED TO CALL THEIR LOCAL POLICE DETACHMENT.
HE HAS WHITE HAIR, AND WAS REPORTED TO BE CARRYING A LARGE BLACK

そーっ
NO WAY ... IT COULDN'T BE...
TV
WAKE UP...
GRAMPS ...
そそー

?
GRAMPS !
WHAT IS THIS ...?
HUH ?
!!
WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY!?
OH GOD ...
WHAT THE ...

OHH ... THAT HURT ...
NO, NO, I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS!
OWE !!
OWE OWE OWE !!
あみ茄
MM
MMM ...
K ...
K-I K-ICHI ...!

IS THIS YOUR HOUSE?
OH... GOOD MORNING
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
K-1 !!
WELL ...
YOU SEE ...

WHY WOULD YOU HAVE TO ESCAPE!?
LIAR !!
HEH ...
I ESCAPED FROM THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY.
ARE THESE YOUR PARENTS ?
IF YOU DOUBT ME, CALL THE QUIZ MINISTRY; I'M SURE THE SS WOULD BE HERE IN NO TIME TO ARREST ME.
WHAT ARE YOU ... GOING TO DO NOW?
I'VE SEEN THOUSANDS OF CLASS-B REJECTEES EVER SINCE I BECAME THE HOST FOR THE SHOW...
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T REMEMBER YOUR FATHER...

I GIVE UP... REPORT ME IN TO THE QUIZ MINISTRY.
...
THIS IS YOUR GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO GET REVENGE ON ME.
NOW THAT I WENT AWOL, I CAN'T HOST THE SHOW ANYMORE. I'LL BE ASSIGNED TO SOME OTHER TASK.
...
I'D BE IN THE SAME SITUA-TION AS YOUR DAD...
PROBABLY OUT IN SIBERIA, OR MAYBE DRILLING FOR OIL IN THE SEA OF JAPAN.

I'M LEAVING ...
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REPORT ME...
I HATE YOU, K-I K-ICHI!! I'LL HATE YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!
YOU'RE THE SCUM OF THE EARTH !!
YOU SHOULD RUN AROUND, TRYING TO FLEE, AND END UP RIDDLED WITH BULLETS!!
...

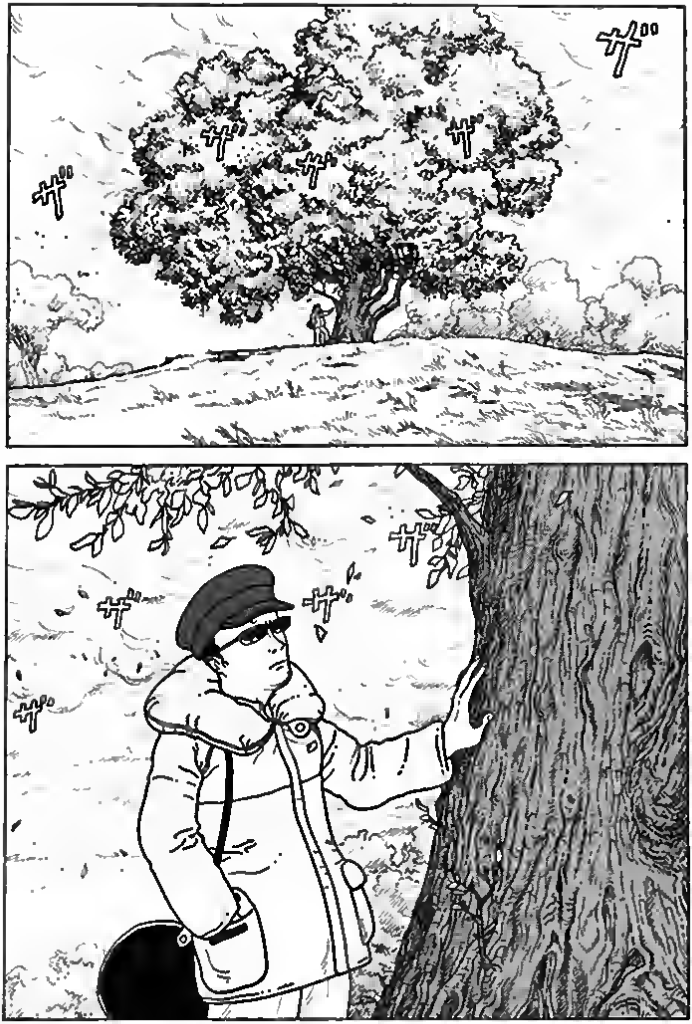
TURN LEFT AT THE NEXT CORNER.
HEY, WHERE EXACTLY ARE WE GOING?
HEY, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU TOLD US SOMETHING: WHO ARE YOU!?
WE HAVE TO TAKE K-1 BEFORE THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY FINDS HIM! TO DO THAT, WE NEED HIS DAUGHTER'S HELP!
LOOK, THERE'S THE SCHOOL UP AHEAD.
I'LL TELL YOU EVENTU-ALLY...

2年D組
ゴオオ
WE ARE HERE FROM THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY'S CENTRAL STATION, TO TAKE MANABE MARIKO INTO PROTECTIVE CUSTODY!
I HAVE THE PROPER PAPER-WORK WITH ME.
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY? WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ANY ORDERS ABOUT IT.

FOR NOW, ANY PLACE AWAY FROM THE CLASS-ROOM!
ズル ズル
TAKE THEM AWAY...? WHERE ...?
VERY NICE ...
OOH AND AHH LATER! HURRY UP AND TAKE THEM AWAY!
ガラッ
QUIET!
UHH... I SEE, BUT...
ざわ ざわ
I APOLOGIZE FOR INTERRUPTING YOUR LESSON! WE HAVE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY TO TAKE MISS MANABE MARIKO BACK TO HER HOUSE!

ERR... MANABE... YOU ARE TO GO HOME IMMEDI-ATELY WITH THESE PEOPLE...
IF YOU DO NOT COMPLY, WE WILL BE FORCED TO PUNISH YOU IN SOME WAY IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS.
わさ
わさ
わさ
わさ
GET OUT OF THE CLASS-ROOM !!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? GO!!

ブオワ
BUT DON'T WORRY ... WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE AS YOU AND YOUR DAD.
HAHA ... THAT'S RIGHT.
YOU GUYS AREN'T FROM THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY!
I KNOW THAT K-1 ESCAPED BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SEE YOU...
WE'RE PASSIONATE DEVOTEES OF K-1: I WOULD ABSOLUTELY LOOOOVE TO SET YOU TWO UP FOR A FACE-TO-FACE MEETING!
!!
LOOK, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. TELL ME WHERE YOUR DAD MIGHT GO!!



TRANSLATOR: EMPEROR KETCHUP

EDITOR: GATSU

第26話

K-I K-ICHI'S DECISION

ブッブッブッ
37-A8
THINK, MARIKO! THINK VERY HARD! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOUR DAD WOULD BE!?
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH BY BRINGING ME AND MY DAD TOGETHER!?
.....
THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME-THING!
HOW ABOUT THE TOWN YOUR DAD LIVED IN WHEN HE WAS AN ACTOR? OR A PLACE THAT HOLDS LOTS OF MEMORIES FOR HIM... SOMETHING TO DO WITH HIS FAMILY...

WE HAVE TO FIND YOUR DAD BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! IF WE DON'T, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO REGRET IT.
LOOK. WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME, MARIKO: IF WE MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY, YOU MAY NEVER GET TO SEE YOUR DAD AGAIN FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
...
...
I THINK YOU SHOULD JUST WORK WITH US AND USE US TO YOUR ADVANTAGE FOR NOW..
AM I WRONG ?
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT... OLD LADY.

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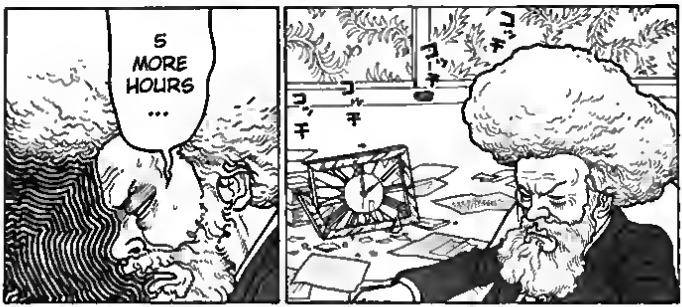
5 MORE HOURS ...
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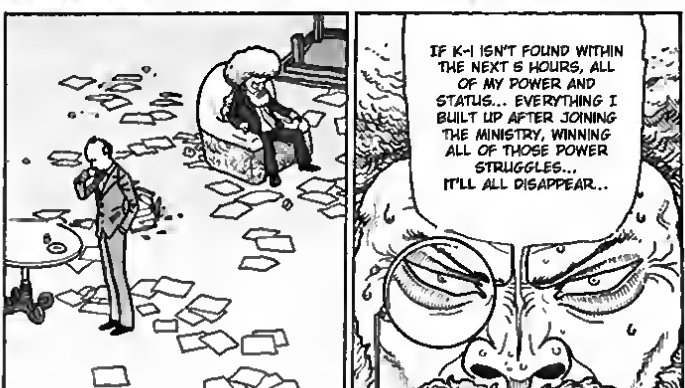

IF K-I ISN'T FOUND WITHIN THE NEXT 5 HOURS, ALL OF MY POWER AND STATUS... EVERYTHING I BUILT UP AFTER JOINING THE MINISTRY, WINNING ALL OF THOSE POWER STRUGGLES... IT'LL ALL DISAPPEAR..

K-I'S DAUGHTER WAS ABDUCTED FROM HER SCHOOL!!
WHOEVER SHE IS, SHE'S HIGHLY TRAINED: SHE TOOK OUT 2 OF OUR ELITE TROOPS AT ONCE!
NO! THE CULPRIT WAS AN UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE!
WAS IT K-I!?
WHAT !?
THIS ISN'T JUST AN INDIVIDUAL REBELLION BY K-I: THERE'S SOME LARGER CONSPIRACY AT WORK HERE!
AAAAAHA-HAHAA-HAHA!!
HEHE-HEHE ...
HEHE ...

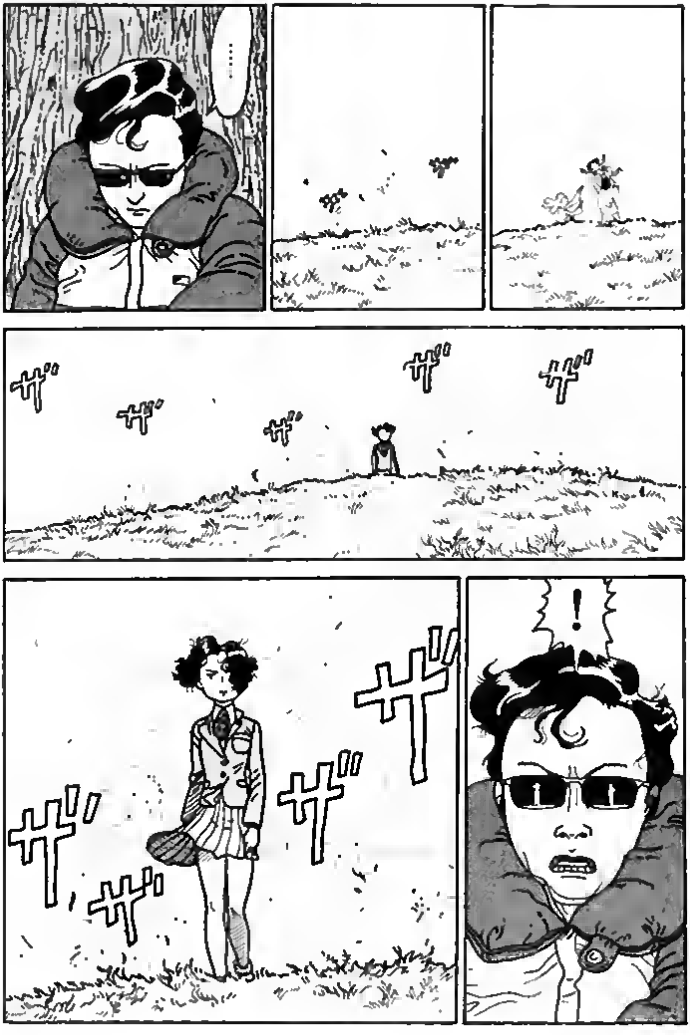
WHEW, THIS IS A BIG PARK!
IS HE REALLY GOING TO BE HERE!?
WHAT'S OVER THERE!?
IF HE IS, HE'LL BE OVER THERE!
WAIT ...!
THE PLACE WHERE DAD WOULD GO TO MEMORIZE HIS LINES WHEN HE WAS AN ACTOR!

.....

WHEEE!
AH, HA HA!

THERE YOU GO!
HAHAHA ...

OVER HERE, MARIKO!
HE EH EE!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MA
...
MARIKO
...

……
ギュッ

AHEM! PLEASE EXCUSE ME FOR INTERRUPTING THE FATHER-DAUGHTER REUNION!
I SEE ... YOU WERE WITH THE SS ...
TAKE ME AWAY... I GOT TO SEE MY DAUGHTER, I HAVE NO REGRETS.
I AM LIEUTENANT YUKI KYOKO OF THE REPUBLIC OF SADOGAJIMA, NATIONAL DEFENSE FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS AGENT!!
ON THE CONTRARY!
HUH? THE SADOGAJIMA REPUBLIC!?
YOU GUYS ARE FROM THE HARDCORE SECT...!!
HEY!!
WHEW, SPECIAL OPS!
I SEE! THAT'S WHAT IT WAS!
I KNEW YOU WEREN'T AN AMATEUR!

I'M HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR A FAVOR.
DON'T REJOICE, FOOL !!
COOL, HE REMEMBERS US!
OVERTHROW THE NATIONAL QUIZ!?
I WANT YOU TO LEND A HAND TO MY COUNTRY'S PLANS TO OVERTHROW THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM!

HE... HE'LL COME! HE'LL DEFINITELY COME!!
WHAT'S K-I UP TO...? WE'VE ONLY GOT 2 HOURS BEFORE WE GO LIVE, AND HE STILL HASN'T SHOWN UP...
HE ABSO-LUTELY HAS TO SHOW UP!!
HE HAS TO COME !!
I WISH HE WOULD CATCH PNEUMONIA OR SOME-THING AND DIE: THAT WAY I COULD BE THE MAIN HOST!!
THIS IS IMPOS-SIBLE!

THIS ENTIRE PLAN IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT I'LL BE HOSTING THE SHOW: DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'LL LET ME BACK AS THE HOST AFTER I'VE GONE AWOL!?
I DOUBT THAT THE NATIONAL QUIZ MINISTRY WOULD CAN YOU.
YOU HAVE A 90%+ APPROVAL RATING!
THE FACT THEY'RE TRYING TO COVER UP THIS WHOLE ESCAPE IS PROOF OF THAT.
BUT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY TO END THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM.
THIS IS RIDICULOUS! THERE'S NO WAY SUCH AN AUDACIOUS PLAN WILL SUCCEED!!
WHAT IF I SAY NO?
THEN WHAT?
チャガ

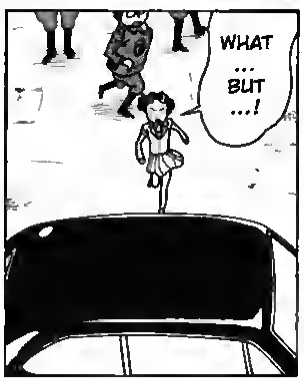
I'LL DISPOSE OF YOU AND THIS PLAN, AND START OVER AGAIN... NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT TAKES; I'LL LIBERATE THE JAPANESE PEOPLE FROM THE NATIONAL QUIZ!
DON'T WORRY, WE WON'T HARM INNOCENT PEOPLE. WE'LL SEND MARIKO BACK HOME UNHARMED.
I SEND A SIGNAL DURING THE SHOW, AND THAT'LL BE MY RESPONSE?
HOW ABOUT ...
YOUR RESPONSE!?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TIME

MARIKO !

VERY WELL! SO YOU WANT TO KEEP THE FUN GOING UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE!
ケケケケ

DADDY'S GOING TO WORK.

DON'T WORRY; WE CAN SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON.


WHAT ... BUT ...!

PROMISE ME THAT YOU'LL BE WAITING FOR ME!!
I PROMISE!
YOU TWO, TAKE CARE OF MARIKO-CHAN!
SIR!
TAN-IGAWA, LET'S GO!
AYE-AYE!
GO!!!

ARE WE GOING WITH A-KO AGAIN TONIGHT!?
20 MINUTES BEFORE WE GO ON AIR! ISN'T K-I HERE YET!?
OH! ALL RIGHT, GREAT !!
WHAT !?
WHAT!? I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
RIGHT !
HH HHH !
WHAT !?
K-I TURNED HIMSELF IN!! HE'S GOING TO ENTER THE STUDIO !!

カッッ
カッッ
カッッ
カッッ
K-I! YOU LISTEN-ING, YOU BASTARD !?
BUT FIRST, YOU MUST CARRY OUT YOUR DUTY!!
I HAVE A MILLION QUES-TIONS I WANT TO ASK YOU!
7
8
9
6
5
LISTEN UP, ASSHOLE; WE GO LIVE IN 10...!!
ピク
4

HELLO, ALL 1.3 BILLION INDIVIDUALISTS NATION-WIDE !!
IT'S THE TIME YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!!
IT'S TIME ... FOR THE NATIONAL QUIZ!!
K-1 K-ICHI'S DECISION / END

第27話
THE MAN WHO CAME WALTZING BACK
TRANSLATOR: EMPEROR

JAPAN IS CURSED! THE REASON THIS COUNTRY IS FLOUNDERING IS BECAUSE WE ARE BEING PUNISHED FOR NOT TREATING THE SPIRITS OF OUR ANCESTORS WITH ENOUGH RESPECT!!

ALL RIGHT THEN, LET'S INTRODUCE OUR CONTESTANTS! FIRST, WE HAVE THIS MAN!

SO THE INFLATION IN THIS COUNTRY, THE BUDGET DEFICIT, THE UNFAIR TAX SYSTEM, CROP FAILURES, THEY'RE ALL CAUSED BY A CURSE?
REALLY !

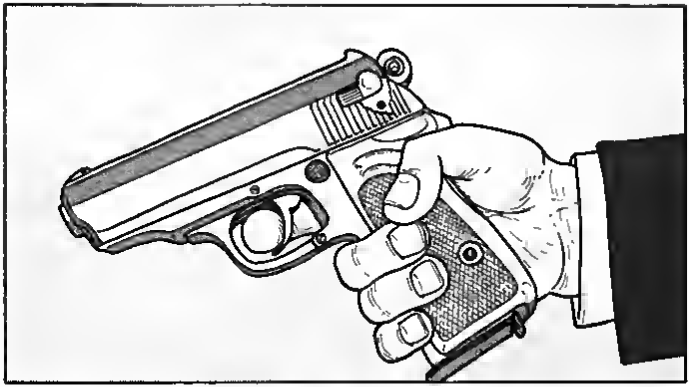
HUH ?
NOW, K-I!! PRAY WITH ME!!

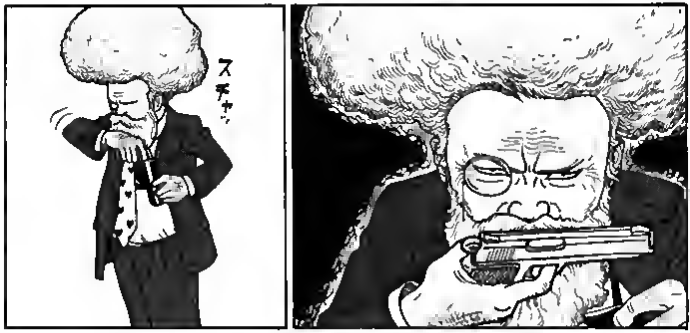
THAT'S RIGHT! IF THE CITIZENS DO NOT GET TOGETHER AND PRAY AS ONE TO THE GODS, JAPAN WILL FALL TO RUINS IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE!!

HAHA ... HAHA ... OH MAN...

THIS IS WHAT YOU DO!
悪霊降伏
怨敵退散
南無帰命頂礼
HUBBAL-UBBA ABLOOB-LOO...
……
HOW IS HE DOING?
悪霊降伏
怨敵退散
南無帰命頂礼
HALLELU-JAH, SEND US TO HEAVEN ...!!
HE'S FEELIN' IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHY WOULD A MAN WHO MANAGED TO ESCAPE COME BACK AND TURN HIMSELF IN ...?
MAYBE HE REALIZED THAT HOSTING THE NATIONAL QUIZ WAS HIS CALLING IN LIFE WHILE HE WAS IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

IN ANY CASE, HE'S LOOKING REALLY GOOD TODAY. IT'S LIKE A BIG WEIGHT HAS BEEN TAKEN OFF OF HIS SHOULDERS.
悪霊降伏
怨敵退散
南無帰命頂礼.
NOW EVERYBODY, LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!!
AFTER THE SHOW IS FINISHED, CAPTAIN MURAKOSHI WILL INTERROGATE HIM. WE'LL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM AFTER THAT.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO K-1?
ワアアア
IF HE HAD KNOWN, HE WOULD HAVE NEVER COME BACK.
SS-STYLE INTERROGATION...

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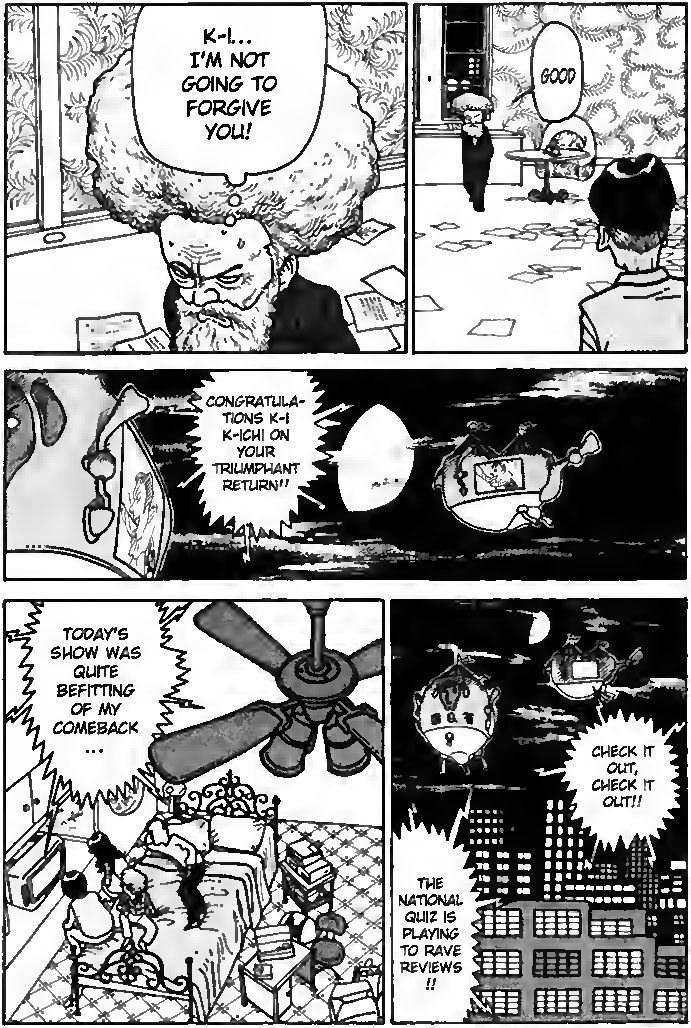
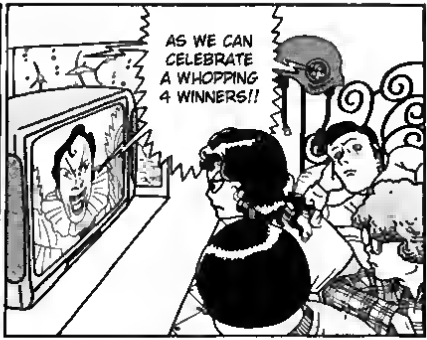
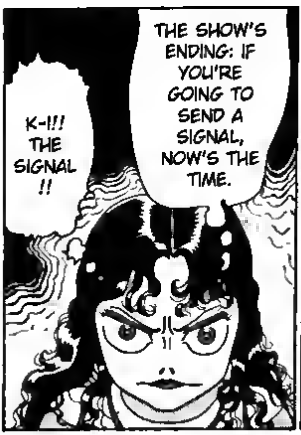
CENTRAL DIRECTOR, YOUR CAR IS READY, SIR.
!?


K-I... I'M NOT GOING TO FORGIVE YOU!
GOOD
CONGRATULATIONS K-I K-ICHI ON YOUR TRIUMPHANT RETURN!!
TODAY'S SHOW WAS QUITE BEFITTING OF MY COMEBACK ...
CHECK IT OUT, CHECK IT OUT!!
THE NATIONAL QUIZ IS PLAYING TO RAVE REVIEWS !!

ALL YOU GREEDY ZOMBIES IN FRONT OF THE TV!


AS WE CAN CELEBRATE A WHOPPING 4 WINNERS!!

WON'T YOU TRY AND BRING YOUR WISHES TO FRUITION!?


THE SHOW'S ENDING: IF YOU'RE GOING TO SEND A SIGNAL, NOW'S THE TIME.
K-!!! THE SIGNAL !!

HE'S A PROFES-
THAT BASTARD! HE JUST ACTED LIKE THERE WAS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY GOING ON, RIGHT THROUGH TO THE VERY END!!

SHH !

I, K-I K-ICHI, WITH A PUBLIC APPROVAL RATING OF OVER 90%!!
OR MAYBE THE ESTAB-LISHMENT OF A NEW FORMS OF JUSTICE AND ORDER!?
WHAT IS IT YOU WISH FOR!? MONEY!? POWER!?
OF COOPER-ATING WITH YOUR "GRANDI-OSE PLANS!!"
WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THE HONOR ...
SEE YOU AGAIN TOMORROW! GOOD BYE!!
?
... GOOD

HISTORY WILL NOT STOP!!
YOU SHOULDN'T STOP HISTORY.
HAHA. THAT'S RIGHT.

LYING IS USELESS!! ANSWER ME!! WHO DID YOU HAVE CONTACT WITH WHILE YOU WERE ON THE RUN!?
I WAS JUST SLEEPING ON A PARK BENCH!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY THE SAME THING...!?
ｸﾞｲｯ!!
STOP SCREWING AROUND!!
YOUR JOB LOOKS A LOT MORE FUN.
H... HEY... WHY DON'T WE SWITCH ROLES...?
WAS IT YOU THAT TOOK YOUR DAUGHTER AWAY FROM HER SCHOOL!? ANSWER ME!!
GUHH!!

IT'S FINE! I'M MAKING SURE IT WON'T AFFECT HIS PERFORMANCE ON THE SHOW TOMORROW!
I'D PREFER THAT YOU NOT USE SUCH HEAVY-HANDED TACTICS: ALL THE MOANS AND GROANS ARE LEAKING OUT.
HE SAYS THAT HE WAS WANDERING AIMLESSLY THROUGHOUT THE CITY.
HAS HE CONFESSED TO ANYTHING YET?
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MUCH WE WERE PANICKING THESE LAST 2 DAYS!?
K-I ...

RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TRYING TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
SHOULD I HAVE LEFT A NOTE?
YOU'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT THE SIBERIAN INTERN-MENT CAMPS, HAVEN'T YOU?
YOU WERE SLATED FOR 20 YEARS OF GOVERN-MENT SER-VITUDE, BUT NOW YOU MAY GET LIFE, AND POSSIBLY BE SENT TO SIBERIA AS WELL.
DESER-TION IS A SERIOUS ACT OF TREASON AGAINST THE COUNTRY.
WE WON'T KEEP YOU ALIVE FOR 5 YEARS...
THE AVERAGE LIFESPAN OF A DETAINEE IS 5 YEARS.
LOGGING AND MINING IN THE ARCTIC CLIMATE, WHERE TEM-PERA-TURES REACH -50C IN THE WINTER...

IN ANY CASE ... FORTUNATELY FOR YOU, ONLY A VERY SMALL GROUP WITHIN THE CENTRAL STATION KNOWS ABOUT THIS MISHAP.
LET'S GET THIS THING OFF... WHAT WE NEED IS AN EQUAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN 2 PEOPLE.
THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF EVER MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS REGARDING THIS INCIDENT. YOU CAME DOWN WITH A COLD AND HAD TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF... THAT'S IT.
FORTUNATE FOR BOTH OF US...
EXACTLY! IF THIS INCIDENT COMES TO LIGHT, THE CENTRAL STATION WILL BE RUINED.
THERE'S A MASSIVE POWER STRUGGLE GOING ON OVER WHO IS NEXT IN LINE TO ATTAIN HIS POSITION.
THE CENTRAL STATION IS IN A CRITICAL SITUATION AS IT IS: THE CURRENT SECRETARY IS FACING MANDATORY RETIREMENT NEXT YEAR.
HEHEHE ... WELL THANKS

THE CENTRAL DIRECTOR IS THE LEADING CANDIDATE TO BECOME THE NEXT SECRETARY, BUT IF WORD OF YOUR ESCAPE GETS OUT, HIS RIVALS WILL USE THAT INFORMATION TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.
.....
WE MUST NOT LET THEM FIND OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT ...
!!
WE CAN'T LET ANYONE FIND OUT!!
チッ

WE CAN'T !!
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ドゥ
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YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO WANTS TO KILL THIS MAN!! HAVE A LITTLE SELF-CONTROL!!
YOU HAVE COMPLETELY LOST IT, CENTRAL DIRECTOR!!
WE CAN'T LET ANYONE FIND OUT... WE CAN'T ...
WHAT I MEANT WAS ..
HA... HAHA-HAHA ...
ERR ...
I SEE ...
NOTHING, I MERELY THREAT-ENED K-1 USING MY GUN!
CAPTAIN! WHAT'S THE MATTER!?

K-I-KUN! I'VE COME HERE TODAY TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH YOU.
AHEM!
I'D LIKE YOU TO CONTINUE HOSTING THE NATIONAL QUIZ: I CAN'T THINK OF ANYBODY OTHER THAN YOU HOSTING THE SHOW.
A DEAL?
AND FINALLY ... IF YOU WISH...
THE CONDITIONS IN YOUR PRISON WOULD BE IMPROVED, TOO.
AT THE SAME TIME, I INTEND ON FILING A MOTION TO HAVE YOUR SENTENCE REDUCED. A PLEA FROM THE SECRETARY COULD PROBABLY CUT YOUR REMAINING 14 YEARS IN HALF.

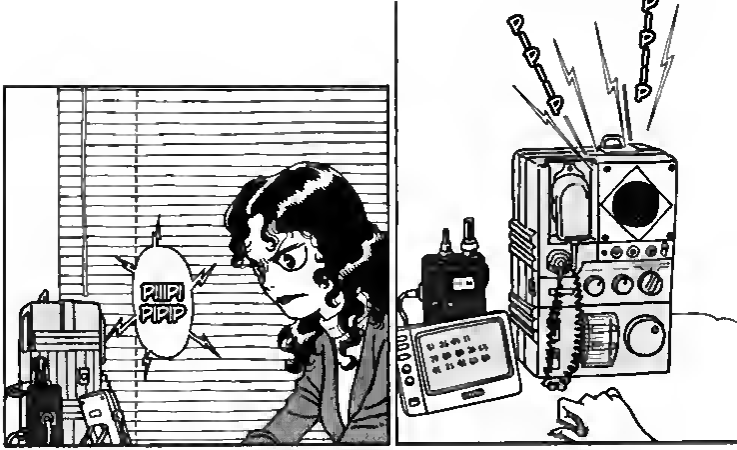
WE WILL PERMIT VISITS FROM YOUR FAMILY WHEN REQUESTED TO DO SO.
WHAT WE ASK OF YOU IS THAT YOU NOT BETRAY US... THAT'S IT.
WELL ...
THIS SOUNDS SCARY ... YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY GOING TO BE ASKING ME FOR SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT IN RETURN, RIGHT?
HAHA HA ...!
WE WANT YOU TO SEE US AS FRIENDS, AND ACT IN GOOD WILL, TREATING OUR INTERESTS AS YOUR FIRST PRIORITY. THIS WILL RESULT IN FAVORABLE RESULTS, NOT JUST FOR US, BUT YOU AS WELL.
HUH ?

YOU ARE AN IRREPLACEABLE ASSET TO US; WE'D RATHER AVOID ANY POINTLESS LOSSES.
DEPENDING ON YOUR ANSWER, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCE-MENT TOMORROW MORNING THAT YOU DIED SUDDENLY IN YOUR SLEEP.
I GUESS I ONLY HAVE ONE CHOICE.

TRANSLATOR: EMPEROR KETCHUP

第28話

THE CONTEST EXPANSION SWEEPSTAKES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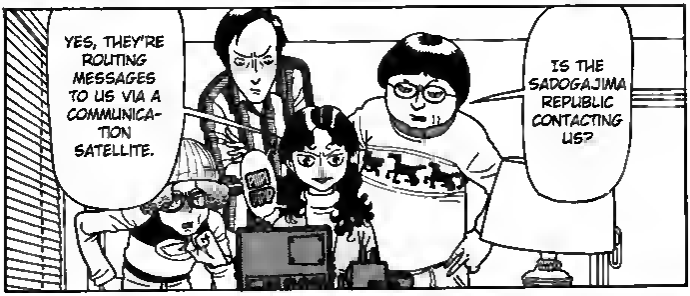
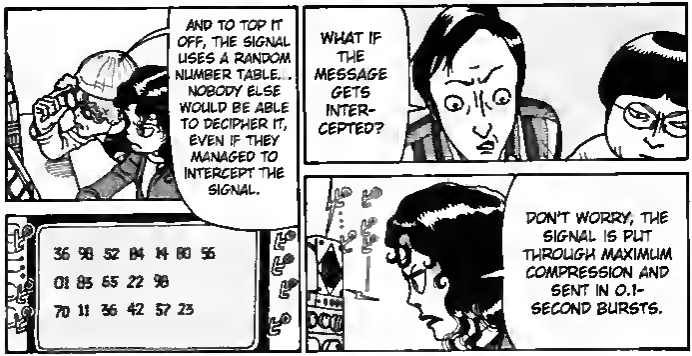
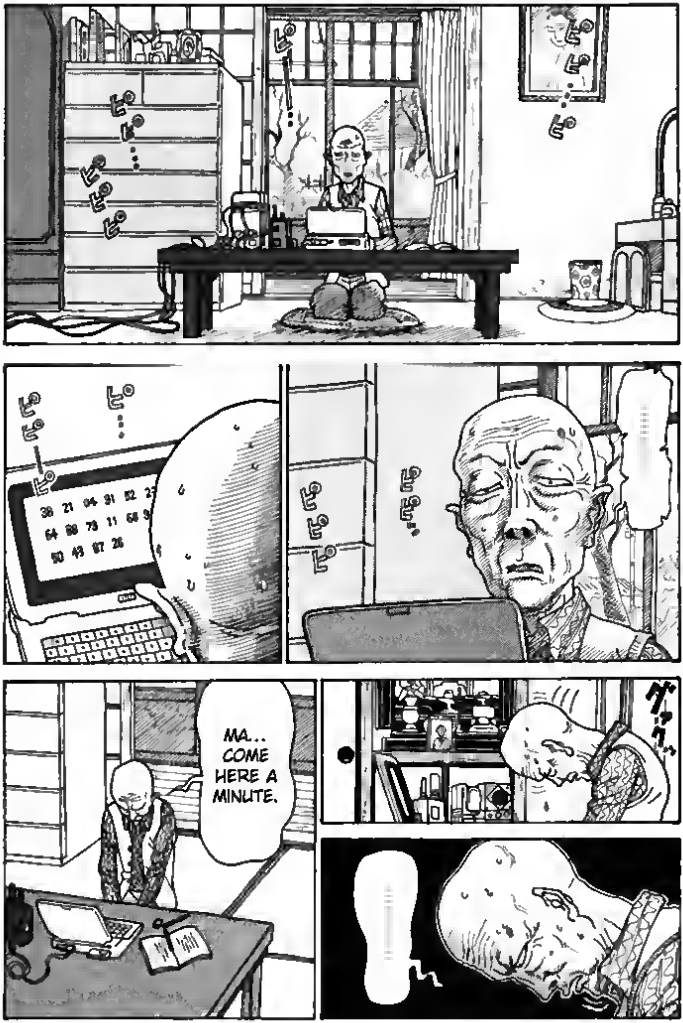

YES, THEY'RE ROUTING MESSAGES TO US VIA A COMMUNICATION SATELLITE.
IS THE SADOGAJIMA REPUBLIC CONTACTING US?


AND TO TOP IT OFF, THE SIGNAL USES A RANDOM NUMBER TABLE... NOBODY ELSE WOULD BE ABLE TO DECIPHER IT, EVEN IF THEY MANAGED TO INTERCEPT THE SIGNAL.
WHAT IF THE MESSAGE GETS INTERCEPTED?
36 98 52 84 14 80 56
01 85 65 22 98
70 11 36 42 57 23
DON'T WORRY, THE SIGNAL IS PUT THROUGH MAXIMUM COMPRESSION AND SENT IN 0.1-SECOND BURSTS.

クルッ
THAT ALL THE AGENTS WHO HAVE INFILTRATED JAPAN WILL ALL START MOVING AT ONCE...
SO...? WHAT IS THE REPUBLIC SAYING?
THIS IS THE FIRST STEP IN OUR PLAN TO OVERTHROW THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM!
IT'S FINALLY START-ING.
HORDES OF CARRIERS ARE GOING TO ENTER THE COUNTRY VIA A THIRD COUNTRY!
OH——!
WE'RE GOING TO START GETTING BUSY...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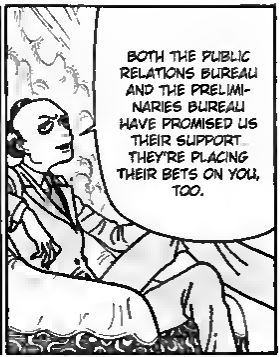
SIT DOWN.
WHAT IS IT?
YES ?
I'VE RECEIVED ORDERS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SADOGA-JIMA...
YES ...
PA... YOU DON'T MEAN ...
IT'S FINALLY ...
SO ...
I'M ENTERING THE NATIONAL QUIZ!
FIRST THING TOMORROW, I'M GOING TO PUT IN AN APPLICA-TION AT THE REGIONAL STATION.

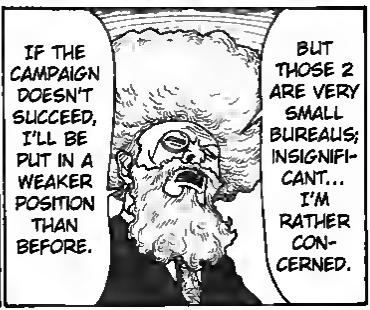
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY. ALL I'LL BE DOING IS GOING ON THE SHOW.
SOB ...
I'M SORRY ... IT MUST BE SO HARD ON YOU ...
BUT I REFUSE TO DIE BEFORE I AVENGE TAKAYUKI'S DEATH.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, PA.
MM.

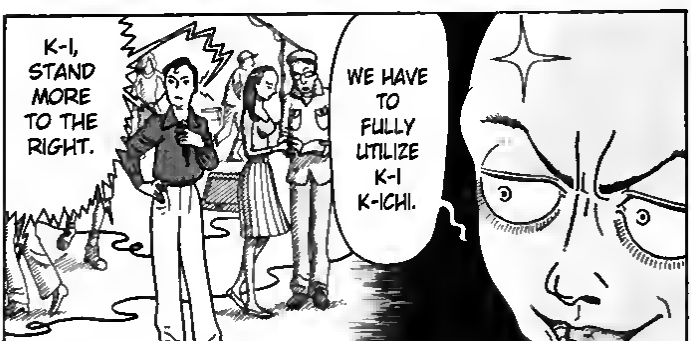
WHY DOES THE CENTRAL STATION HAVE TO DO ANY OF THIS!?
CONTEST SWEEP-STAKES? CAMPAIGN TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CONTES-TANTS?
IF YOU WANT TO BECOME SECRETARY, YOU WILL PRESENT THAT PLAN WITH GREAT FANFARE AT THE NEXT DIRECTOR'S CONFER-ENCE.
JUST LET THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BUREAU OR THE PRELIMI-NARIES BUREAU HANDLE IT!!
I TRUST YOU'VE MADE ALL THE NECESSARY ARRANGE-MENTS.
IN ORDER TO WIN IN WAR, WE NEED LOTS OF AMMUNI-TION.
IF WE TAKE CONTROL OF THE CAMPAIGN, OUR BUDGET WILL BE INCREASED, AND SO WILL THE NUMBER OF STAFF POSITIONS
HMPH! SO THIS IS PART OF OUR ELECTION WORK!

THEY NEED YOU TO BECOME THE NEXT SECRE-TARY.


BOTH THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BUREAU AND THE PRELIMI-NARIES BUREAU HAVE PROMISED US THEIR SUPPORT. THEY'RE PLACING THEIR BETS ON YOU, TOO.

WE HOLD THE ULTIMATE WEAPON.


IF THE CAMPAIGN DOESN'T SUCCEED, I'LL BE PUT IN A WEAKER POSITION THAN BEFORE.
BUT THOSE 2 ARE VERY SMALL BUREAUS; INSIGNIFI-CANT... I'M RATHER CON-CERNED.


K-I, STAND MORE TO THE RIGHT.
WE HAVE TO FULLY UTILIZE K-I K-ICHI.

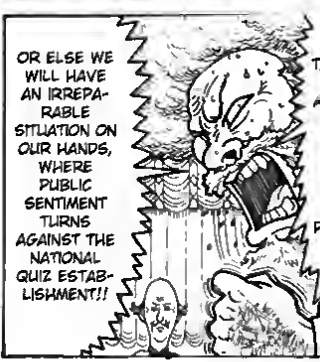
GOOD, GOOD. LET'S SEE THAT FOOTWORK ON TODAY'S SHOW, TOO!
OK, IS THIS GOOD?
HELLO ?
RRR RRR
HE HE HE
IS THERE A PROBLEM ?
STARTING TODAY, I'LL BE MANAGING K-I'S SCHED-ULE.
BRING K-I TO MY ROOM AFTER THE SHOW.

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE GOING TO BE VERY BUSY!
NO, NO... BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE USING K-1 K-ICHI IN OUR CONTEST EXPANSION CAMPAIGN.
K-1... WHAT HAP-PENED !?
LET'S TRY DANCING DURING THE OPENING TODAY!

THE KEY IS K-I K-ICHI !!

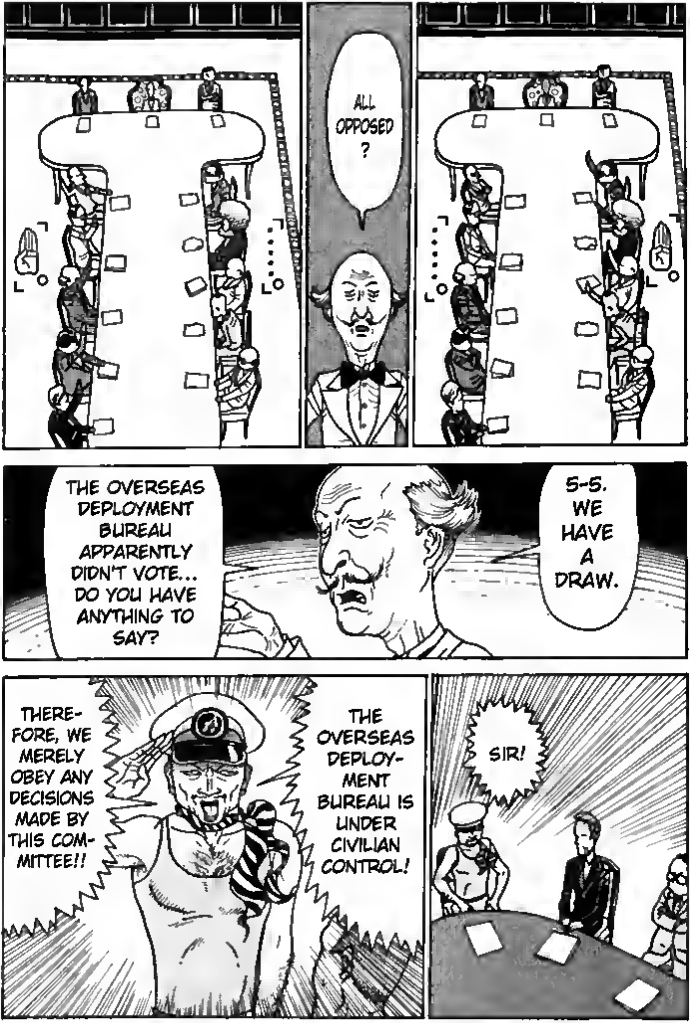
BUT LAUNCHING A MASSIVE CAMPAIGN AND SWEEPSTAKES WOULD CARRY AN AWFULLY HIGH PRICE TAG.

IN ORDER TO GET THROUGH THESE DIFFICULT TIMES, UTILIZING K-I IS OUR BEST STRATEGY: THE CENTRAL STATION IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THIS CAMPAIGN!!


OR ELSE WE WILL HAVE AN IRREPARABLE SITUATION ON OUR HANDS, WHERE PUBLIC SENTIMENT TURNS AGAINST THE NATIONAL QUIZ ESTABLISHMENT!!
WE MUST TAKE STEPS AS SOON AS WE CAN, EVEN IF IT MEANS MAKING CUTS TO BUDGETS AND PERSONNEL FROM OTHER BUREAUS !

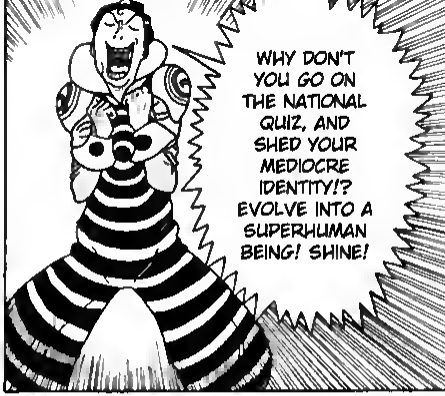
WE DON'T HAVE ANY ROOM IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET FOR SUCH
WE DON'T HAVE A MOMENT TO WASTE!!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE NECESSITY OF THE CAMPAIGN, BUT THAT WOULD FALL UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS BUREAU, NOT THE CENTRAL STATION.
YOU PEOPLE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE HORRORS OF DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION, HAVE YOU!?
ARE YOU WILLING TO SEE THE RETURN OF THE TERRIBLE POLITICAL SYSTEM WHERE COMPETENT BUREAUCRATS ARE PUSHED ASIDE, AND THE COUNTRY RUN BY IDIOTIC POLITICIANS ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HERE AND NOW!?
ドスン!
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR.. YOUR THOUGHTS?
THEN LET US TAKE A VOTE: ALL IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSAL PLEASE RAISE YOUR HANDS
I FEEL THAT UTILIZING K-I'S POPULARITY WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGN STRATEGY ..
AND FOR THAT, WE WOULD REQUIRE COOPERATION FROM THE CENTRAL STATION..

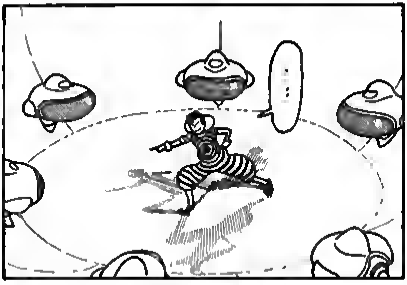

ALL OPPOSED ?
THE OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT BUREAU APPARENTLY DIDN'T VOTE... DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
5-5. WE HAVE A DRAW.
THEREFORE, WE MERELY OBEY ANY DECISIONS MADE BY THIS COMMITTEE!!
THE OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT BUREAU IS UNDER CIVILIAN CONTROL!
SIR!

WHEN THE VOTE IS TIED, THE DECISION RIDES ON THE SECRETARY'S RULING
HAH! YOU DOG!
.....
WE CANNOT IGNORE A DECLINE IN THE NUMBER OF CONTES-TANTS.
I ALSO AGREE.
MM-HM
GRIN

COME TO ME!!
DENIZENS OF GREED WORLD-WIDE!


WHY DON'T YOU GO ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ, AND SHED YOUR MEDIOCRE IDENTITY!? EVOLVE INTO A SUPERHUMAN BEING! SHINE!

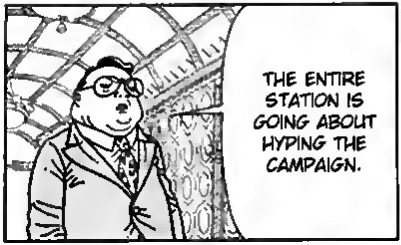
CUT!
FANTASTIC!
HA!

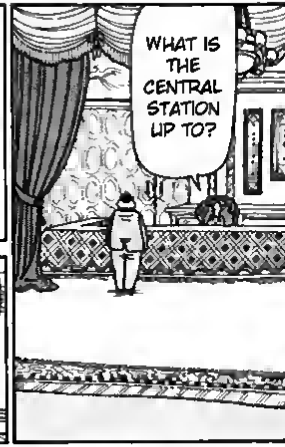


OH HELL, THE ENTIRE COUNTRY IS FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU!!

BRAVO, K-I!!

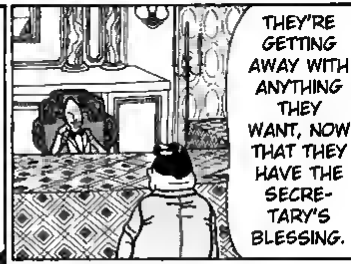
HAHAHA, CAREFUL DON'T FALL IN LOVE WITH ME

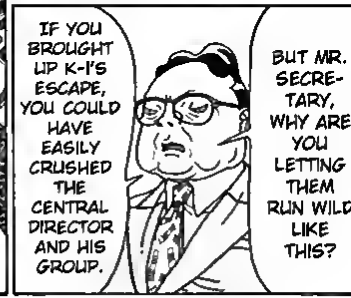

THE ENTIRE STATION IS GOING ABOUT HYPING THE CAMPAIGN.

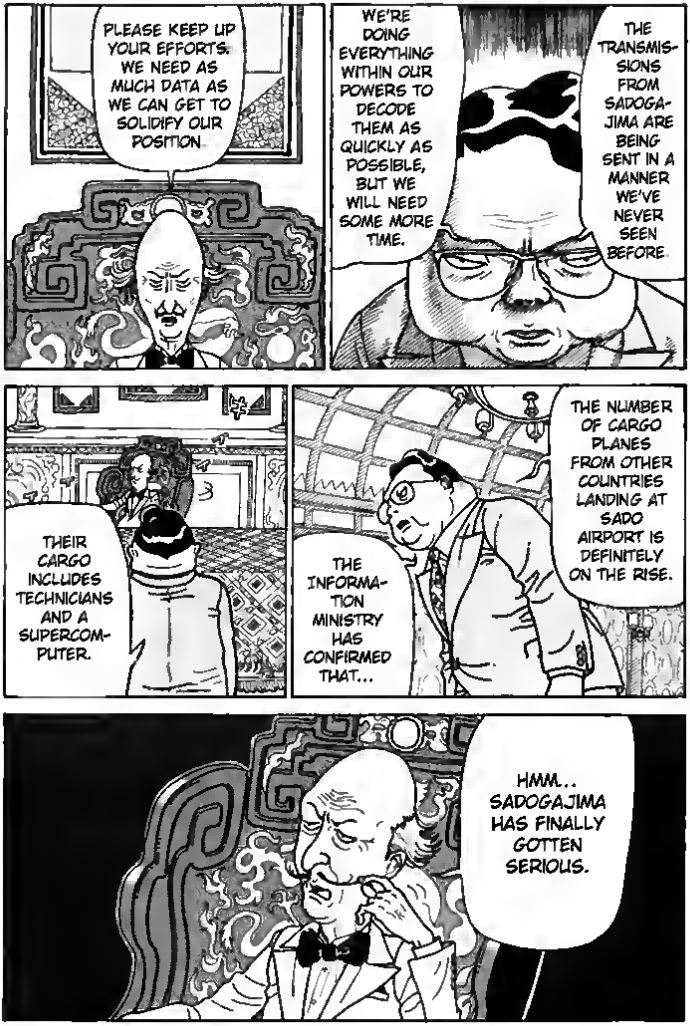

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL STATION UP TO?

HO HO HO ...
HOW VERY BLATANT

THE SADOGAJIMA REPUBLIC HAS BEEN MAKING SUSPICIOUS MOVEMENTS LATELY...
I CAN'T FOCUS ON ONLY THE ENEMIES WITHIN THE MINISTRY,


THEY'RE GETTING AWAY WITH ANYTHING THEY WANT, NOW THAT THEY HAVE THE SECRETARY'S BLESSING.

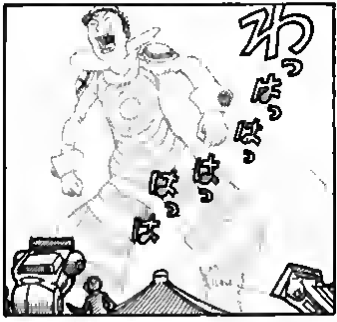

IF YOU BROUGHT UP K-I'S ESCAPE, YOU COULD HAVE EASILY CRUSHED THE CENTRAL DIRECTOR AND HIS GROUP.
BUT MR. SECRETARY, WHY ARE YOU LETTING THEM RUN WILD LIKE THIS?


PLEASE KEEP UP YOUR EFFORTS. WE NEED AS MUCH DATA AS WE CAN GET TO SOLIDIFY OUR POSITION.
WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWERS TO DECODE THEM AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE WILL NEED SOME MORE TIME.
THE TRANSMISSIONS FROM SADOGAJIMA ARE BEING SENT IN A MANNER WE'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
THEIR CARGO INCLUDES TECHNICIANS AND A SUPERCOMPUTER.
THE INFORMATION MINISTRY HAS CONFIRMED THAT...
THE NUMBER OF CARGO PLANES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES LANDING AT SADO AIRPORT IS DEFINITELY ON THE RISE.
HMM... SADOGAJIMA HAS FINALLY GOTTEN SERIOUS.

COME!! ALL YOU PROUD SERVANTS OF GREED !!
SWITCH DESTINIES AT THE NATIONAL QUIZ STATION !!
国民クイズ
地方予選 東京会場

I'M YOUR CONDUCTOR, K-1 K-ICHI!!
おおっ
わっ
キャアアア

国民クイ
地方予選 東京
OK, CONTES-TANTS #400 TO 1200, PLEASE ENTER THROUGH GATE 2!!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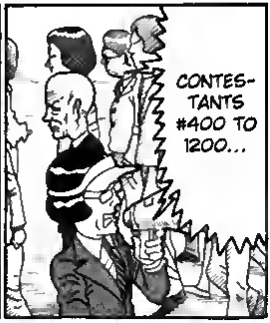
CONTES-TANTS #400 TO 1200...

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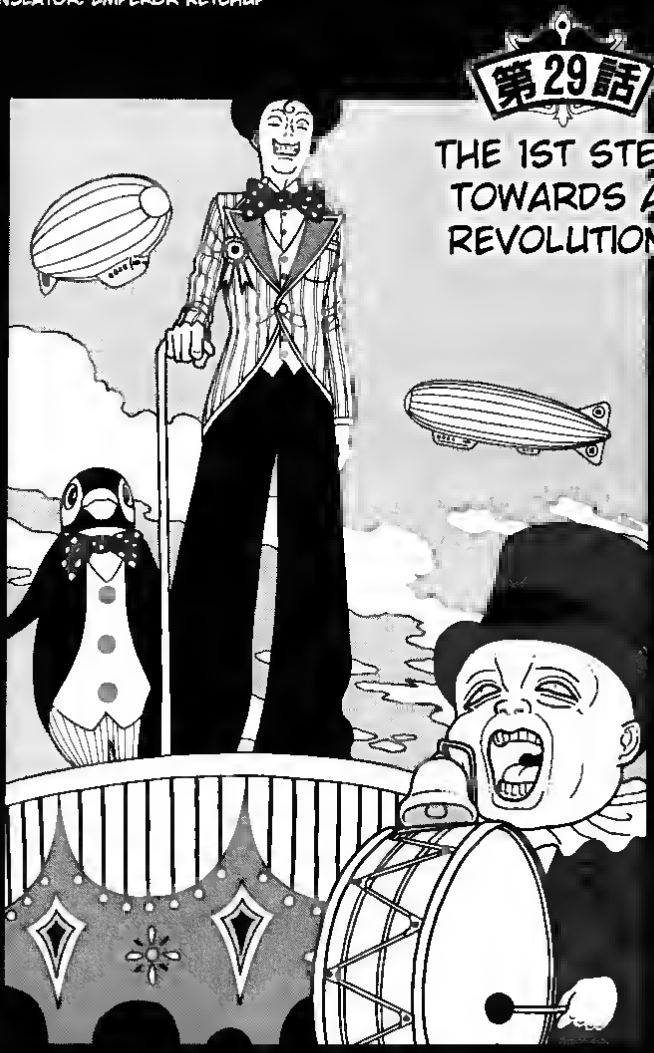
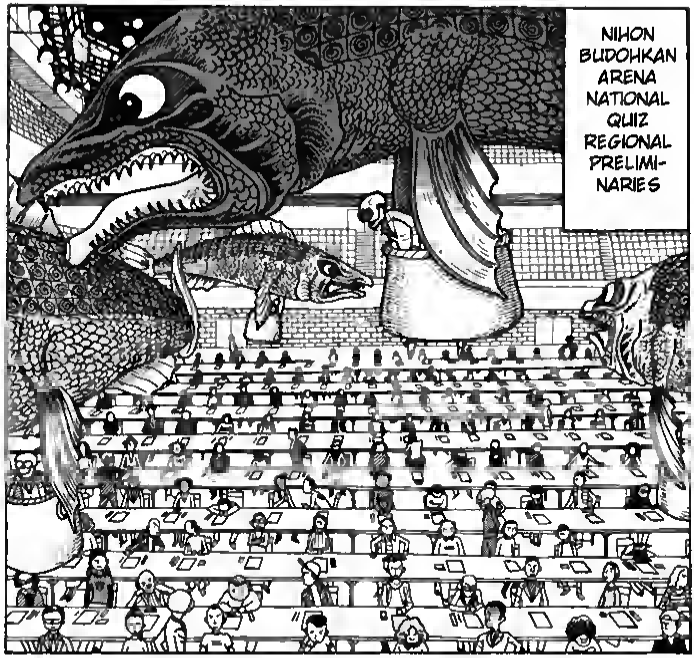
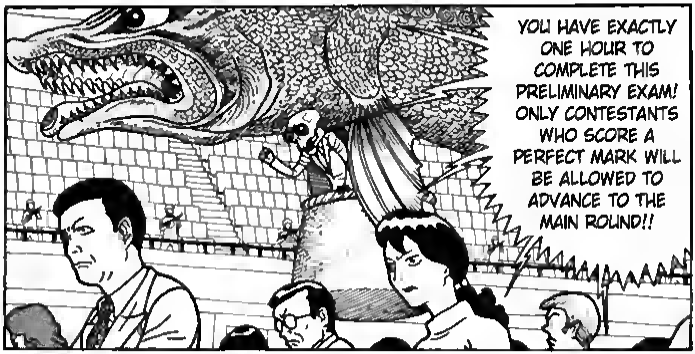
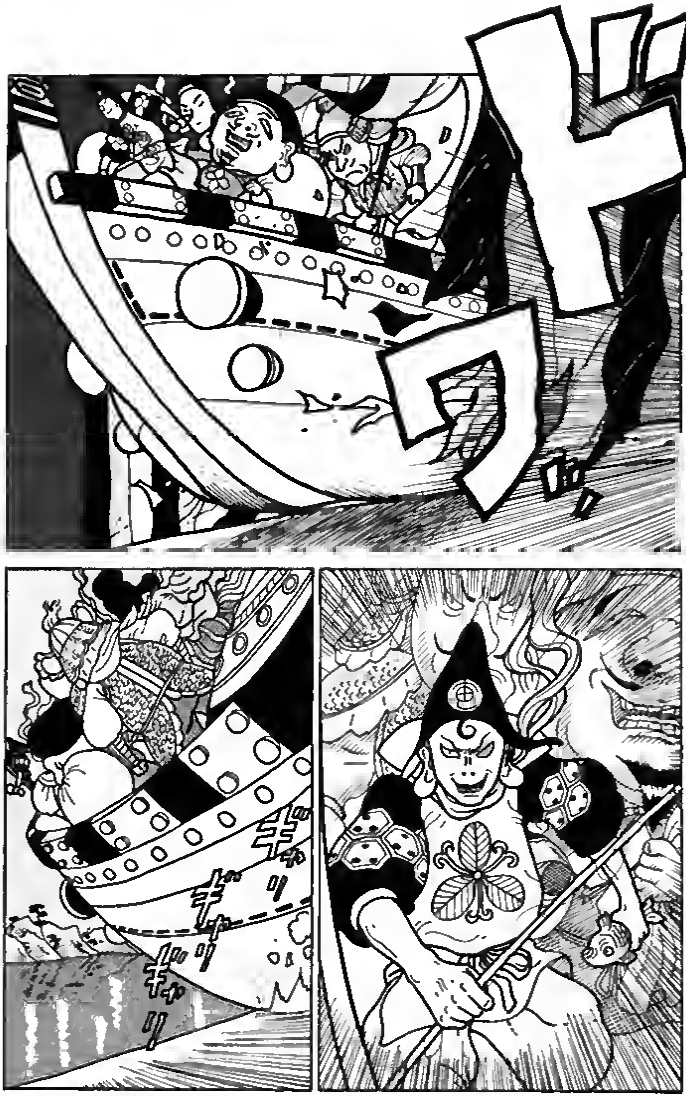
TRANSLATOR: EMPEROR KETCHUP




NIHON BUDOHKAN ARENA NATIONAL QUIZ REGIONAL PRELIMI-NARIES


YOU HAVE EXACTLY ONE HOUR TO COMPLETE THIS PRELIMINARY EXAM! ONLY CONTESTANTS WHO SCORE A PERFECT MARK WILL BE ALLOWED TO ADVANCE TO THE MAIN ROUND!!

BEFORE WE BEGIN THE EXAM TODAY, WE HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST WHO'S HERE TO OFFER WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO ALL OF YOU!
ALLOW ME TO INTRO-DUCE ...!
YOUR SPECIAL GUEST STAR!!
K-I K-ICHI!!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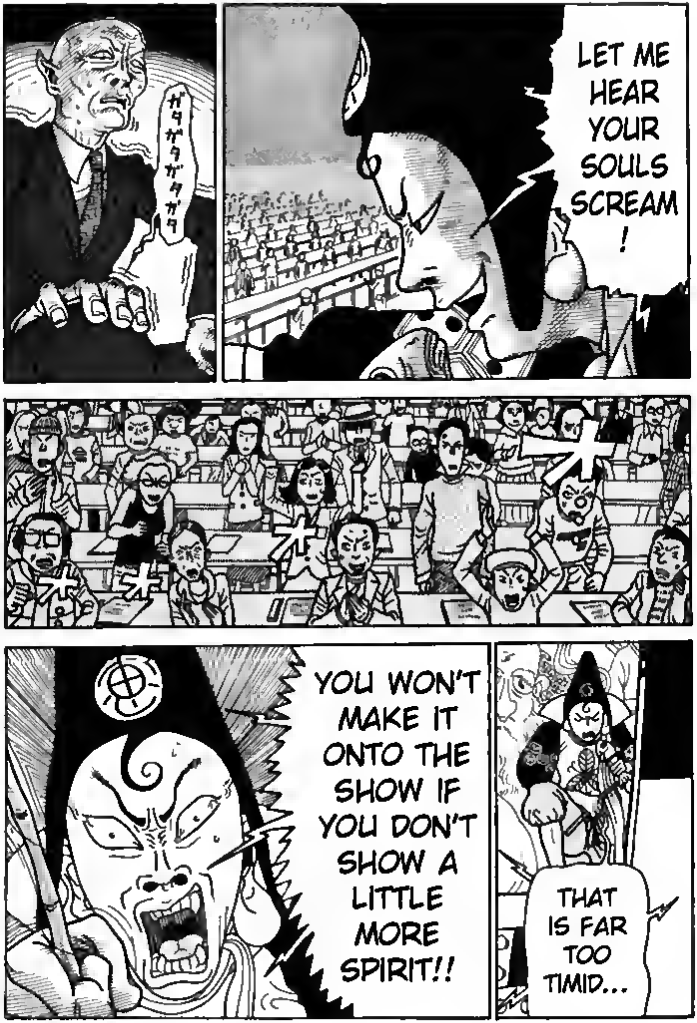
IT'S REALLY HIM.
IT'S ...

ALL YOU REGIONAL ENTRANTS WHO WISH TO COMPETE ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ!!
GULP
THE NATIONAL QUIZ...
YOU PEOPLE ARE THE PRIDE OF JAPAN! I COMMEND YOUR BRAVE DECISION...
IS THE ONE AND ONLY WAY OF MAKING NATIONAL POLICIES REFLECT YOUR OPINION!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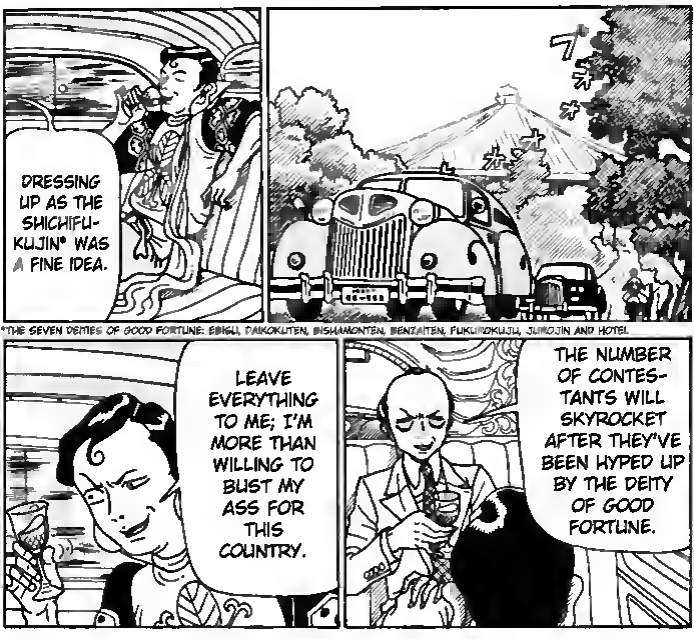
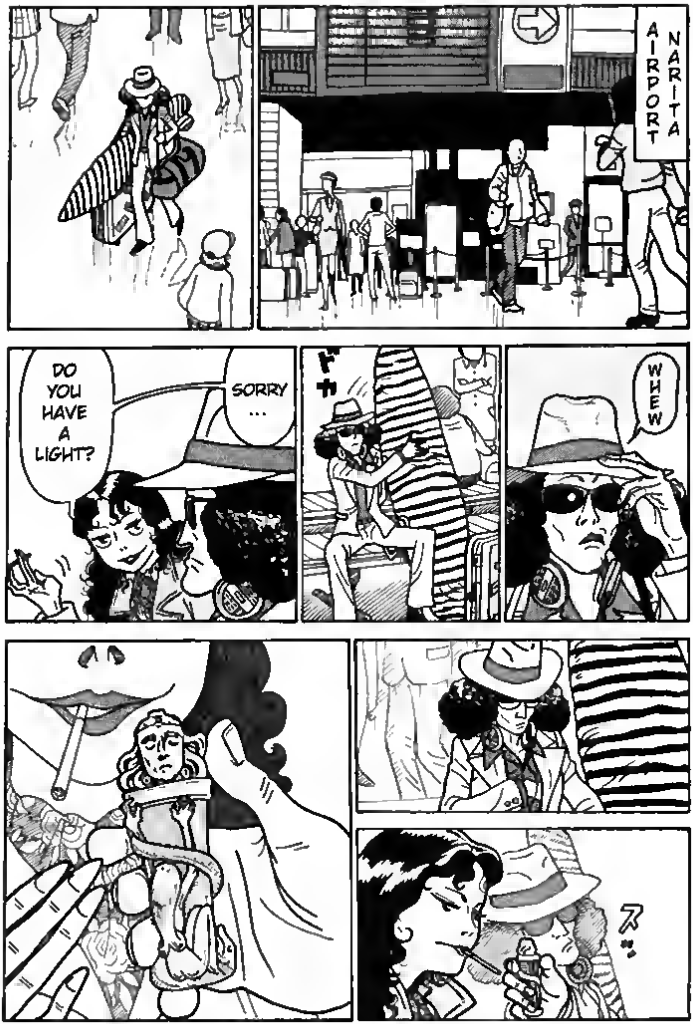
LET ME HEAR YOUR SOULS SCREAM!
YOU WON'T MAKE IT ONTO THE SHOW IF YOU DON'T SHOW A LITTLE MORE SPIRIT!!
THAT IS FAR TOO TIMID...

CERTAINLY, ALL OF YOU MUST BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT YOUR LIVES ARE NOT IMPROVING, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY TIMES YOU CHECK A POLITICIAN'S NAME ON A BALLOT AND PUT IT IN THE BALLOT BOX!!
スト
ON THE OTHER HAND! THE NATIONAL QUIZ WILL NEVER BREAK ANY OF ITS COMMIT-MENTS!!
オオオオオオオオオオ
IT'S SPECIALLY FORMULATED WITH FAST-ACTING INGREDI-ENTS, GIVING YOU INSTANT RESULTS ON PAR WITH ANY ATHLETE'S FOOT MEDICATION ON THE MARKET!!

AS THE HOST OF THE SHOW, I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL LEND AN EAR TO YOUR DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS !!

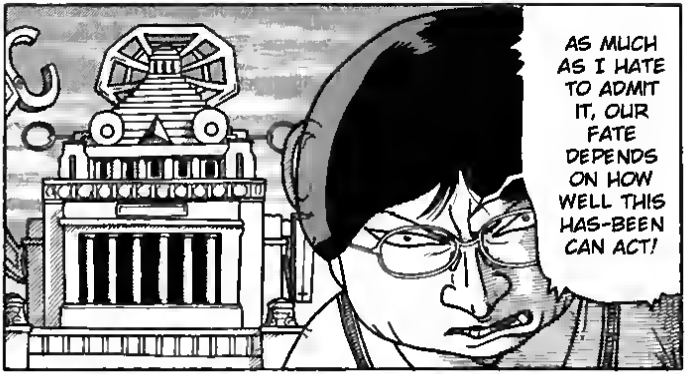
WELL THEN! I WISH YOU LUCK!! BEGIN THE PRELIMINARY EXAM!!

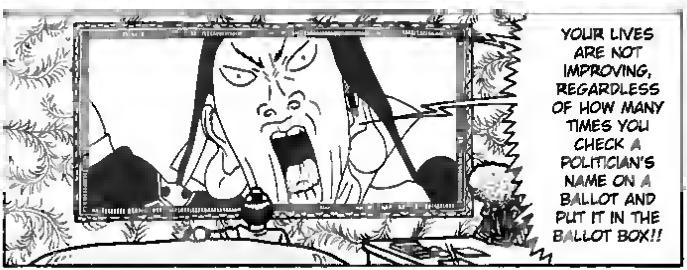

DRESSING UP AS THE SHICHIFUKUJIN* WAS A FINE IDEA.
*THE SEVEN DEITIES OF GOOD FORTUNE: EBISU, DAIKOKUTEN, BISHAMONTEN, BENZAITEN, FUKUROKUJU, JUROJIN AND HOTEI.
LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME; I'M MORE THAN WILLING TO BUST MY ASS FOR THIS COUNTRY.
THE NUMBER OF CONTESTANTS WILL SKYROCKET AFTER THEY'VE BEEN HYPED UP BY THE DEITY OF GOOD FORTUNE.
EXACTLY.
IT WILL ALSO BENEFIT YOU.
WHAT BENEFITS YOU... IN OTHER WORDS, WHAT BENEFITS THE CENTRAL STATION... ALSO HAS A DIRECT CORRELATION WITH THE NATION, AND BENEFITS IT TOO.

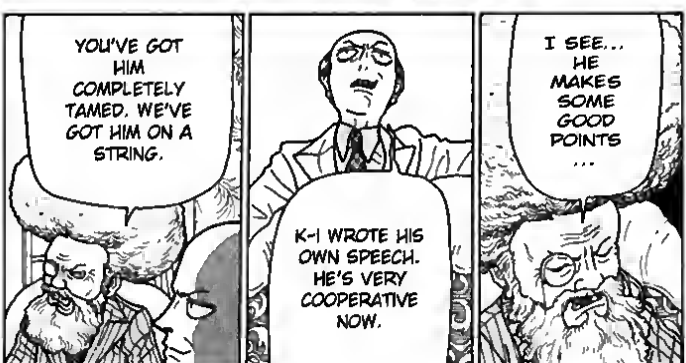

NARITA AIRPORT
DO YOU HAVE A LIGHT?
SORRY ...
ドカ
WHEW
スー

OH, DEFINITELY. ALL THESE BIG ONES COMING AFTER, YOU ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
SURFING? I BET THE WAVES ARE DIFFERENT FROM THE ONES IN JAPAN.
THANKS.
YOU COULD DIE...
IF YOU SCREW UP AND GET SUCKED IN...
LATER.
MY FALLEN COMRADES PROTECTED ME...
I GUESS YOU MANAGED TO RIDE THEM SAFELY.

THIS MORNING, AT THE BUDOHKAN ARENA WHERE NATIONAL QUIZ PRELIMINARIES FOR THE TOKYO AREA WERE TAKING PLACE...
A SPECIAL GUEST ARRIVED TO OFFER WORDS OF ENCOUR-AGEMENT TO CONTES-TANTS.
THE NATIONAL QUIZ IS THE ONE AND ONLY METHOD OF MAKING NATIONAL POLICIES REFLECT YOUR OPINION!
MAN, LISTEN TO HIM.
HEY... ARE YOU SURE WE CAN TRUST HIM? NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT HIM, HE ONLY LOOKS LIKE A BILLBOARD FOR THE ESTABLISH-MENT.
K-1 MAY BE A SECOND-RATE ACTOR, BUT HE'S STILL AN ACTOR! HOW CAN YOU NOT TELL THAT THIS IS ALL JUST AN ACT!?
AN ACT, HUH ...
IF IT IS, IT'S A PERFOR-MANCE WORTHY OF AN ACADEMY AWARD.

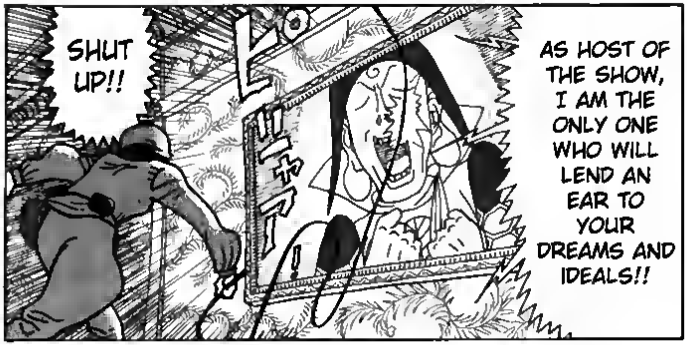

AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT, OUR FATE DEPENDS ON HOW WELL THIS HAS-BEEN CAN ACT!


YOUR LIVES ARE NOT IMPROVING, REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY TIMES YOU CHECK A POLITICIAN'S NAME ON A BALLOT AND PUT IT IN THE BALLOT BOX!!

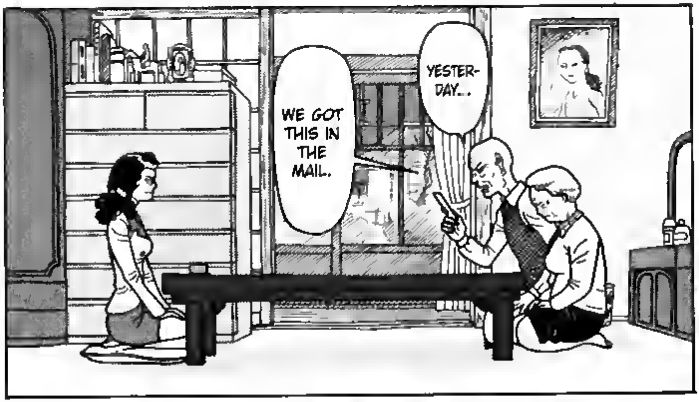

YOU'VE GOT HIM COMPLETELY TAMED. WE'VE GOT HIM ON A STRING.
K-I WROTE HIS OWN SPEECH. HE'S VERY COOPERATIVE NOW.
I SEE... HE MAKES SOME GOOD POINTS ...

I DON'T LIKE IT ONE BIT!!
!!
ICHIKO AND MARIKO ARE STILL UNDER 24-HOUR SURVEIL-LANCE, AREN'T THEY?
WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHO ABDUCTED K-1'S DAUGHTER WHEN HE WAS ON THE LAM!!
HOW CAN YOU BE SO NON-CHALANT !?
LET ME INTERROGATE ICHIKO AND MARIKO!
WE'VE TAPPED THEIR PHONES TOO, BUT WE HAVEN'T GOTTEN ANY-THING!

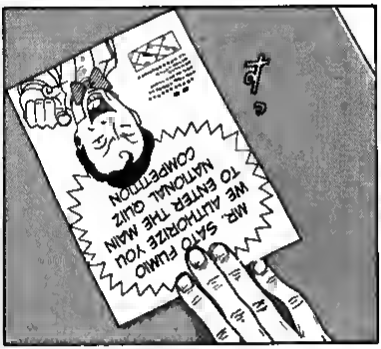
AT LEAST LET ME GET MY HANDS ON MARIKO !!
HEY, IF WE DID SOMETHING LIKE THAT, K-1 WOULD REVOLT AGAINST US.
A LITTLE BRAT LIKE THAT'LL SCREAM AND SPILL HER GUTS IN NO TIME IF I GIVE HER A LITTLE TIME ON THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
ARE YOU SURE YOU GUYS AREN'T THE ONES BEING TAMED, AND NOT K-1?
HEY ...
YES, DON'T FORGET THAT WE NEED HIM IF I'M TO BECOME SECRETARY!


SHUT UP!!
AS HOST OF THE SHOW, I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL LEND AN EAR TO YOUR DREAMS AND IDEALS!!

FIRST, I'M GOING TO PUT YOUR DAUGHTER THROUGH HELL!!
K-I... YOUR FACADE WON'T LAST LONG!


WE GOT THIS IN THE MAIL..
YESTER-DAY...

CONGRAT-ULATIONS.
YOU'RE OUR FIRST "SUICIDE" ENTRANT.


MR. SATO FUMIO WE AUTHORIZE YOU TO ENTER THE MAIN NATIONAL QUIZ COMPETITION

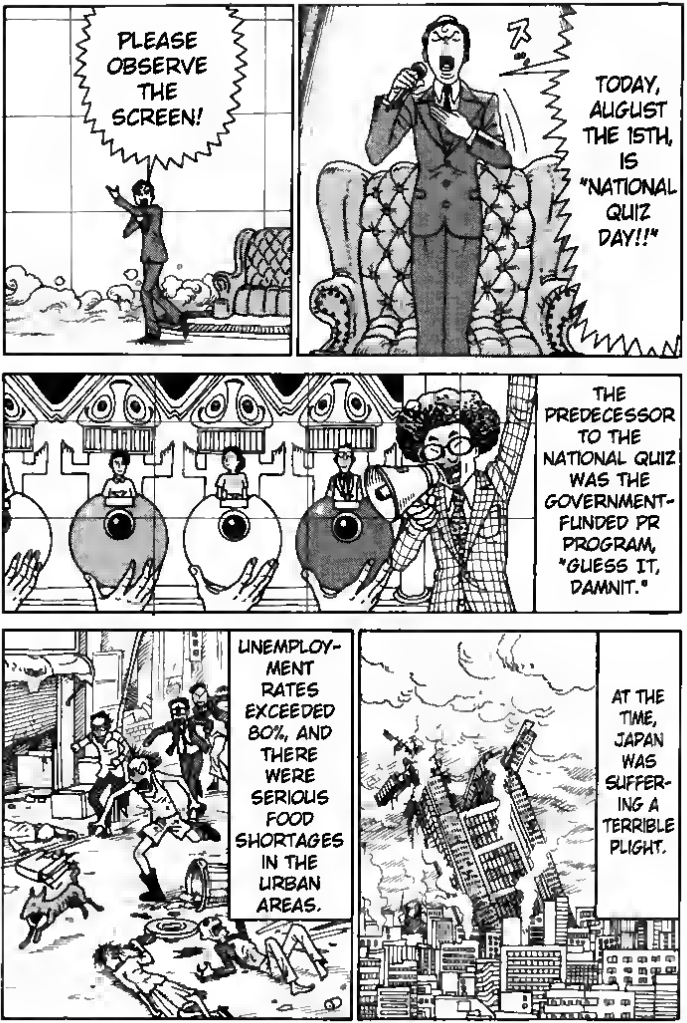
PLEASE TAKE THIS.
I WISH YOU GOOD LUCK.

TRANSLATOR:
EMPEROR
KETCHUP
第30話
NATIONAL QUIZ DAY

Special Broadcast

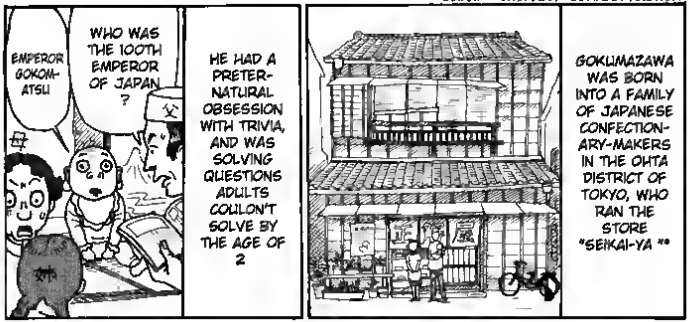
The History of the National Quiz
A Video Presentation

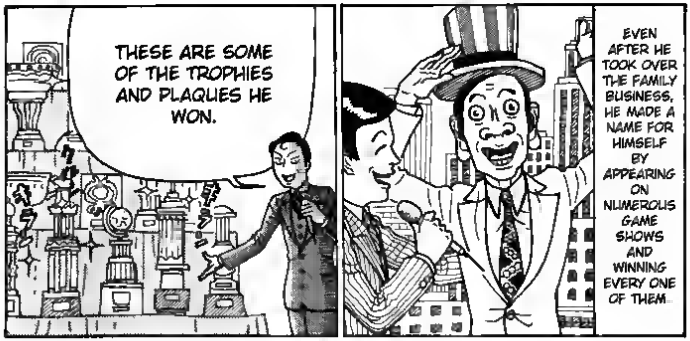
WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT THIS PEACE-FUL AND PROSPEROUS MODERN JAPANESE SOCIETY WAS BUILT UPON GREAT SACRIFICE.
ONCE AGAIN, THE DAY IS AUGUST 15TH.

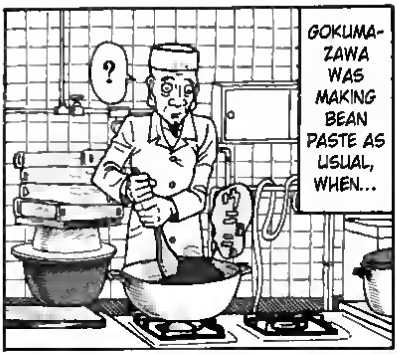

PLEASE OBSERVE THE SCREEN!
TODAY, AUGUST THE 15TH, IS "NATIONAL QUIZ DAY!!"
THE PREDECESSOR TO THE NATIONAL QUIZ WAS THE GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PR PROGRAM, "GUESS IT, DAMNIT."
UNEMPLOY-MENT RATES EXCEEDED 80%, AND THERE WERE SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGES IN THE URBAN AREAS.
AT THE TIME, JAPAN WAS SUFFER-ING A TERRIBLE PLIGHT.

HERE'S THE LAST QUESTION: "IS THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCE CONSTITUTIONAL!?"
I'M YOUR HOST, LA NAKATA! EVERY-ONE STILL ALIVE!?
DURING THOSE DARK TIMES, THIS SHOW CAME UP WITH A REVOLUTION-ARY CONCEPT: THE WINNER OF THE CONTEST COULD ACQUIRE ANY PRIZE THEY WISHED FOR.
THAT'S RIGHT, DAMNIT!!
YES!!
必勝
ガ
千葉 桜井トンコ
ALL RIGHT, GOOD GOING YOU BITCH!
I'M SO HAPPY !
千葉 桜井トンコ
THE PRIZES WERE VERY MODEST, REFLECTING THE SOCIETAL NORMS OF THE DAY WHICH DEEMED LUXURY TO BE EVIL, BUT EVERYBODY WAS SATISFIED.

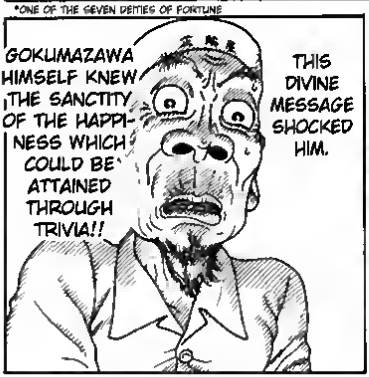
**"SEIKAI" = LITERALLY "CORRECT ANSWER"


EMPEROR GOKOMATSU
WHO WAS THE 100TH EMPEROR OF JAPAN?
HE HAD A PRETERNATURAL OBSESSION WITH TRIVIA, AND WAS SOLVING QUESTIONS ADULTS COULDN'T SOLVE BY THE AGE OF 2
GOKUMAZAWA WAS BORN INTO A FAMILY OF JAPANESE CONFECTIONARY-MAKERS IN THE OHTA DISTRICT OF TOKYO, WHO RAN THE STORE "SEIKAI-YA"*


THESE ARE SOME OF THE TROPHIES AND PLAQUES HE WON.
EVEN AFTER HE TOOK OVER THE FAMILY BUSINESS, HE MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF BY APPEARING ON NUMEROUS GAME SHOWS AND WINNING EVERY ONE OF THEM.

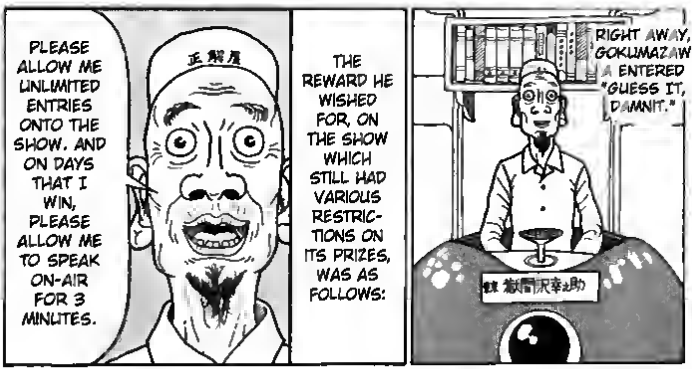


*ONE OF THE SEVEN DEITIES OF FORTUNE

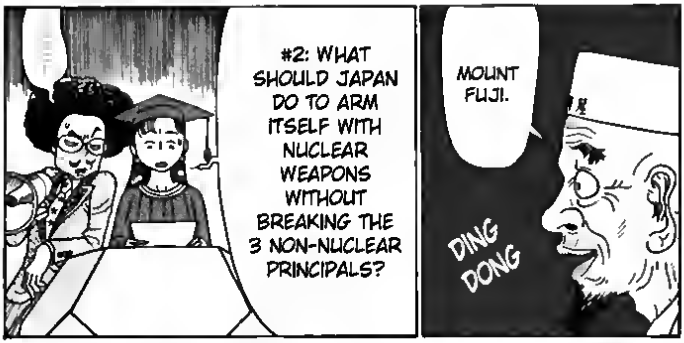

GOKUMAZAWA HIMSELF KNEW THE SANCTITY OF THE HAPPI-NESS WHICH COULD BE ATTAINED THROUGH TRIVIA!!
THIS DIVINE MESSAGE SHOCKED HIM.

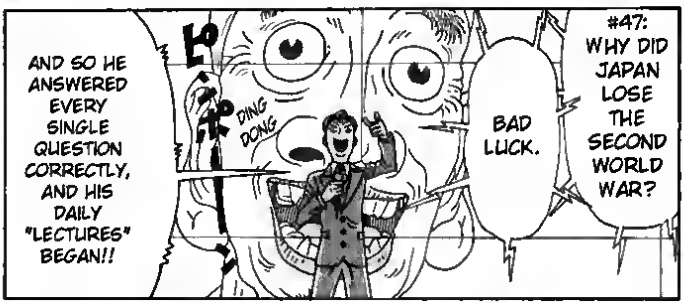
LOOK AT THAT SWEET, CALM FACE... OF COURSE, HE IS MADE OF BEAN PASTE!
WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS THAT VERY DAIKO-KUTEN.

ALL RIGHT, LET'S ROLL THE TAPE AGAIN.
HRM... HMM... IT'S VERY... SACRILI-CIOUS ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SIR?

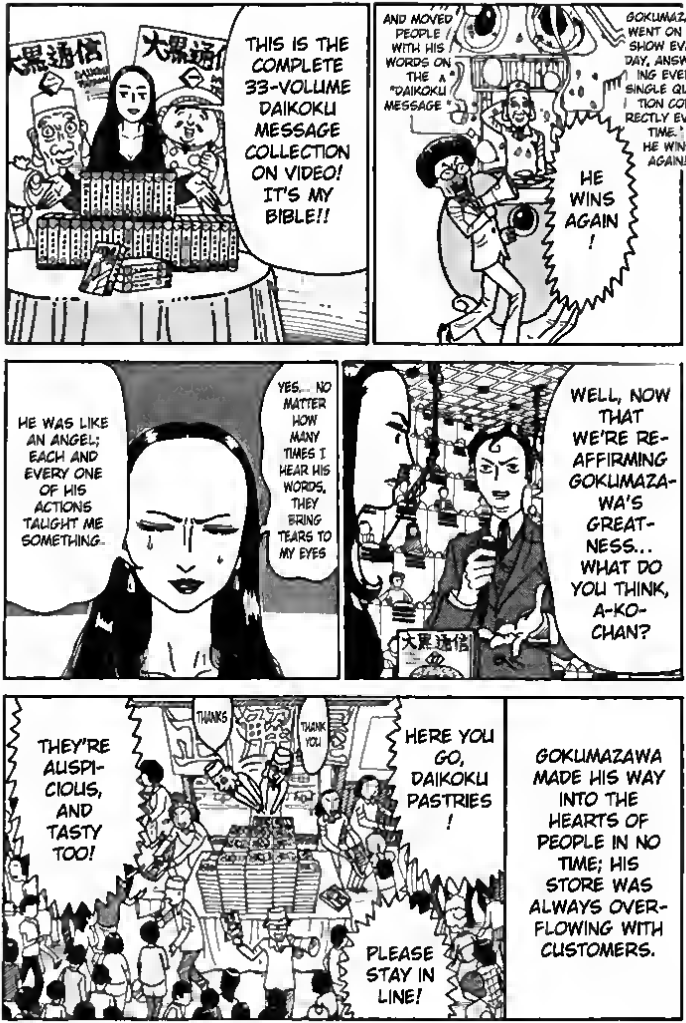

PLEASE ALLOW ME UNLIMITED ENTRIES ONTO THE SHOW. AND ON DAYS THAT I WIN, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SPEAK ON-AIR FOR 3 MINUTES.
正解屋
THE REWARD HE WISHED FOR, ON THE SHOW WHICH STILL HAD VARIOUS RESTRIC-TIONS ON ITS PRIZES, WAS AS FOLLOWS:
RIGHT AWAY, GOKUMAZAW A ENTERED "GUESS IT, DAMNIT."
地獄間沢幸之助

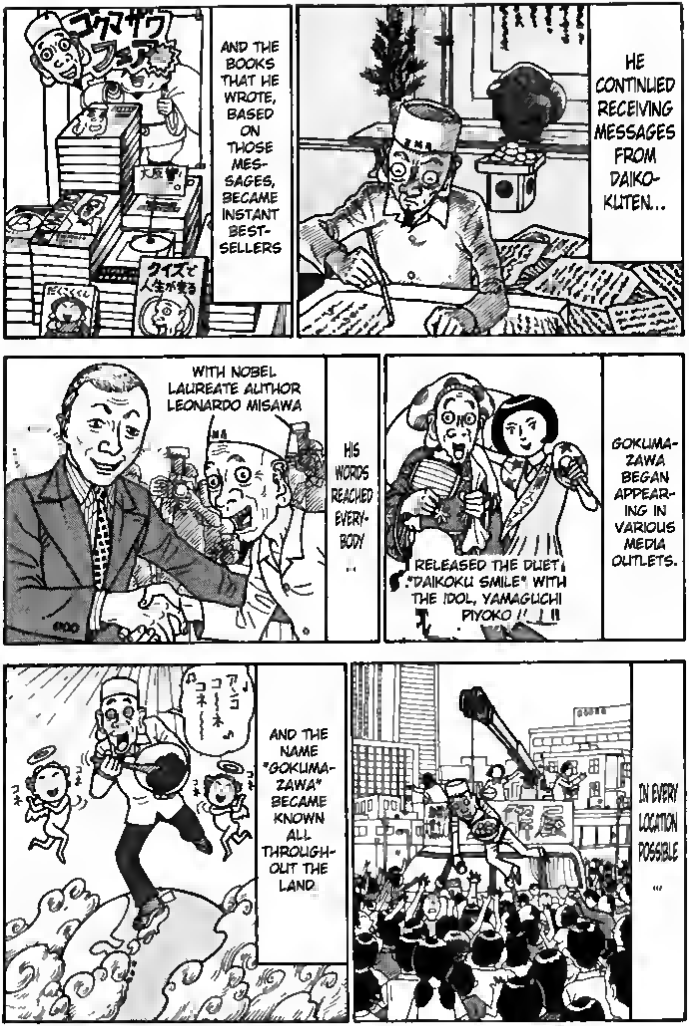
I APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE TO ALL THE OTHER CONTESTANTS; I'M GOING TO ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS TODAY.
AHAHAHA, THAT'S GREAT! WE WELCOME PEOPLE WHO WANT ATTENTION !!
PLEASE ACCEPT THESE DAIKOKU PASTRIES FROM MY STORE AS GIFTS.
ゴギッ
#1: WHAT IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD?
OK, MR GOKUMAZAWA!
BUT THE HOST UNDERESTIMATED GOKUMAZAWA.
WHA... WHAT A COCKY BASTARD ...


#2: WHAT SHOULD JAPAN DO TO ARM ITSELF WITH NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITHOUT BREAKING THE 3 NON-NUCLEAR PRINCIPALS?
MOUNT FUJI.
DING DONG

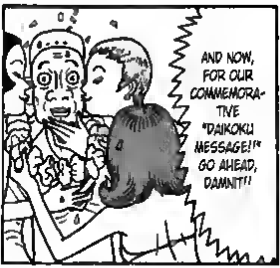

#47: WHY DID JAPAN LOSE THE SECOND WORLD WAR?
BAD LUCK.
DING DONG
AND SO HE ANSWERED EVERY SINGLE QUESTION CORRECTLY, AND HIS DAILY "LECTURES" BEGAN!!

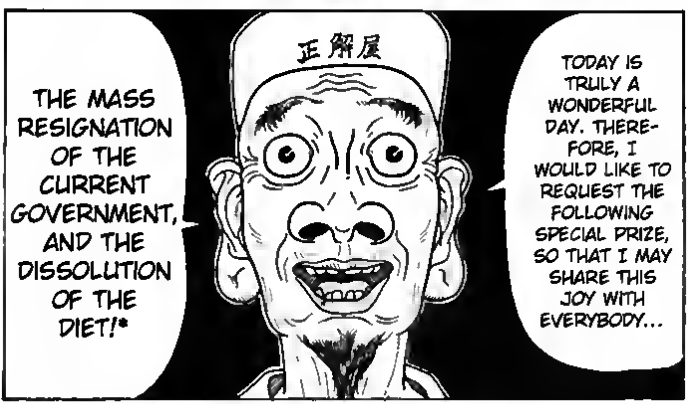
HIS CORNER ON THE SHOW BECAME KNOWN AS THE "DAIKOKU MESSAGE"...
AND WAS A VERITABLE TREASURE VAULT OF IDEAS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED THE FOUNDATION OF THE CURRENT NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM.


THIS IS THE COMPLETE 33-VOLUME DAIKOKU MESSAGE COLLECTION ON VIDEO! IT'S MY BIBLE!!
大黒通信
AND MOVED PEOPLE WITH HIS WORDS ON THE A "DAIKOKU MESSAGE
GOKUMAZAWA WENT ON THE SHOW EVERY DAY, ANSWERING EVERY SINGLE QUESTION CORRECTLY EVERY TIME. HE WINS AGAIN!
HE WINS AGAIN!
HE WAS LIKE AN ANGEL; EACH AND EVERY ONE OF HIS ACTIONS TAUGHT ME SOMETHING.
YES... NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I HEAR HIS WORDS, THEY BRING TEARS TO MY EYES
WELL, NOW THAT WE'RE REAFFIRMING GOKUMAZAWA'S GREATNESS... WHAT DO YOU THINK, A-KO-CHAN?
THEY'RE AUSPICIOUS, AND TASTY TOO!
THANKS
THANK YOU
HERE YOU GO, DAIKOKU PASTRIES!
PLEASE STAY IN LINE!
GOKUMAZAWA MADE HIS WAY INTO THE HEARTS OF PEOPLE IN NO TIME; HIS STORE WAS ALWAYS OVERFLOWING WITH CUSTOMERS.


コクマザワフェア
大反響!
クイズで人生が変る
AND THE BOOKS THAT HE WROTE, BASED ON THOSE MESSAGES, BECAME INSTANT BEST-SELLERS
HE CONTINUED RECEIVING MESSAGES FROM DAIKOKUTEN...
WITH NOBEL LAUREATE AUTHOR LEONARDO MISAWA
HIS WORDS REACHED EVERYBODY...
RELEASED THE DUET "DAIKOKU SMILE" WITH THE IDOL, YAMAGUCHI PIYOKO!!
GOKUMAZAWA BEGAN APPEARING IN VARIOUS MEDIA OUTLETS.
アコ コーネ
AND THE NAME "GOKUMAZAWA" BECAME KNOWN ALL THROUGHOUT THE LAND
IN EVERY LOCATION POSSIBLE...

ON WHAT WAS THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF HIS "DAIKOKU MESSAGE," HE CALLED UPON THE CITIZENS OF THE COUNTRY ...
AND SO HIS FOLLOWING GREW, UNTIL THE FATEFUL DAY ARRIVED.



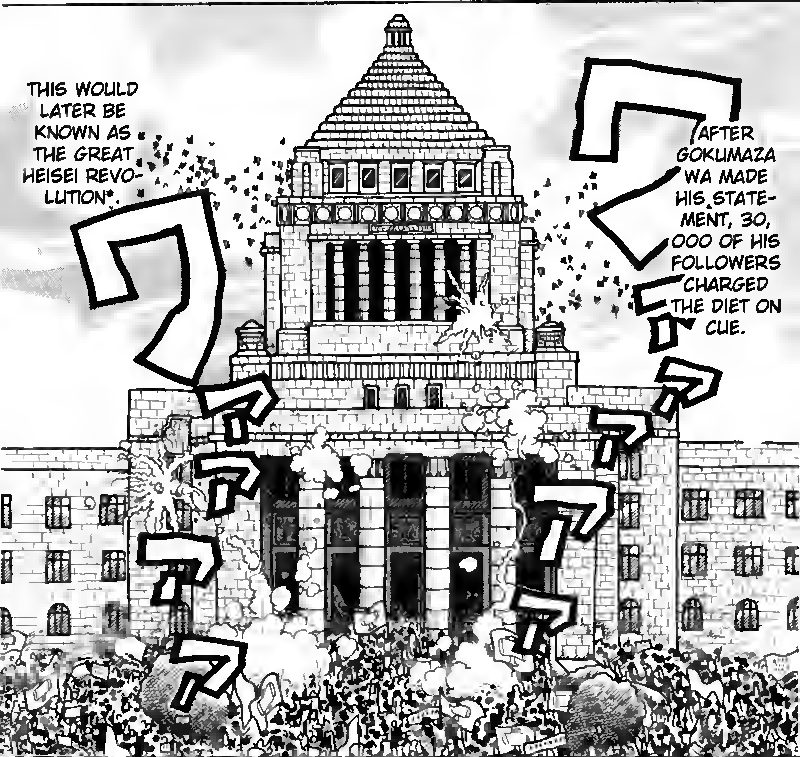

正解屋
THE MASS RESIGNATION OF THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT, AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THE DIET!*
TODAY IS TRULY A WONDERFUL DAY. THEREFORE, I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL PRIZE, SO THAT I MAY SHARE THIS JOY WITH EVERYBODY...

*JAPANESE EQUIVALENT OF CONGRESS

WHAT !?
THE REVOLUTION MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED BY TRIVIA!
スクッ
東京 獄間沢幸之助

I HEREBY ANNOUNCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM!!

*HEISEI: TIME PERIOD STARTING IN 1989 WITH THE CORONATION OF THE CURRENT EMPEROR, AKIHITO


THIS WOULD LATER BE KNOWN AS THE GREAT HEISEI REVOLUTION*.
AFTER GOKUMAZA WA MADE HIS STATEMENT, 30,000 OF HIS FOLLOWERS CHARGED THE DIET ON CUE.
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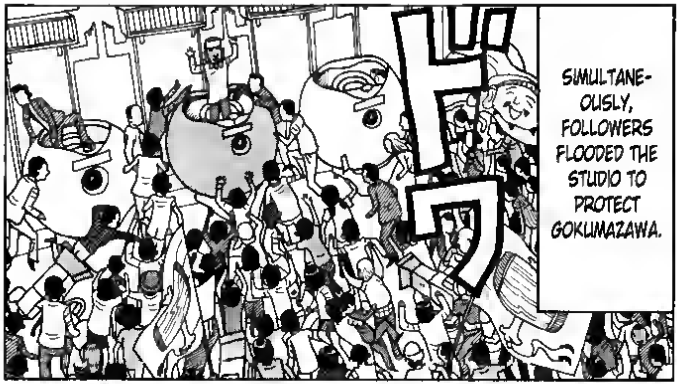
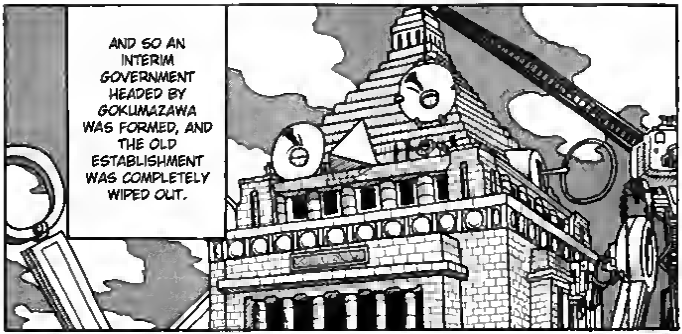
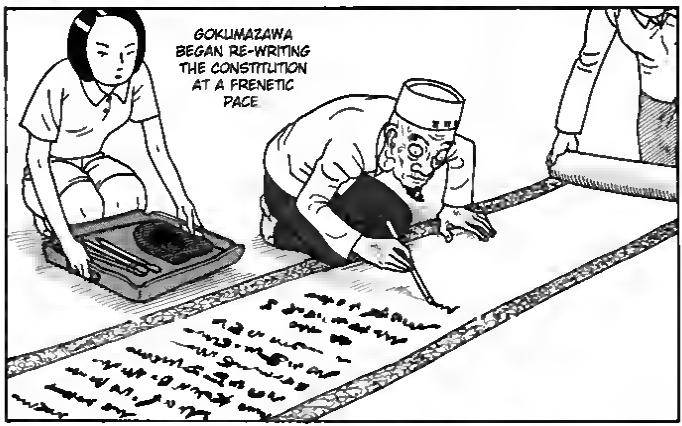
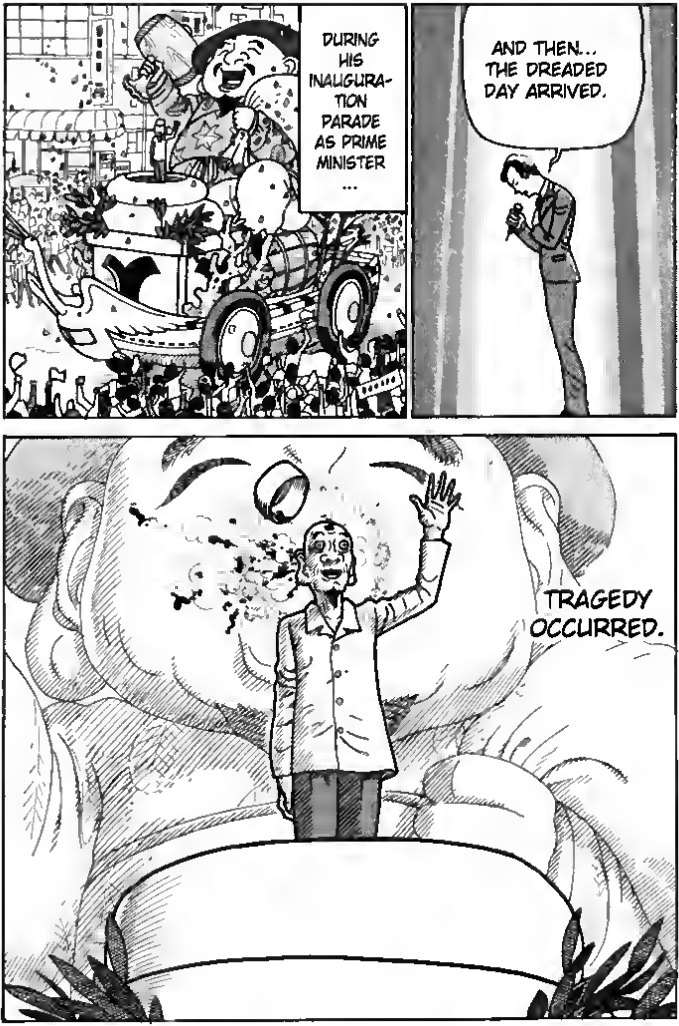

ドワ
SIMULTANE-
OUSLY,
FOLLOWERS
FLOODED THE
STUDIO TO
PROTECT
GOKUMAZAWA.

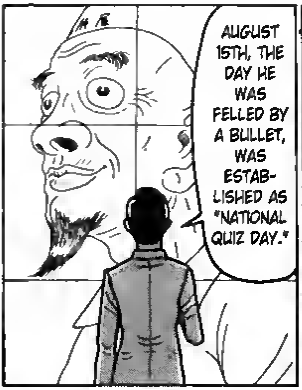
DING DONG
DING DONG
DING DONG
LEGEND HAS
IT THAT
OUT OF
NOWHERE,
THE SOUND
OF THE
CHIME WHICH
INDICATES A
CORRECT
ANSWER
BEGAN
RINGING
REPEATEDLY.

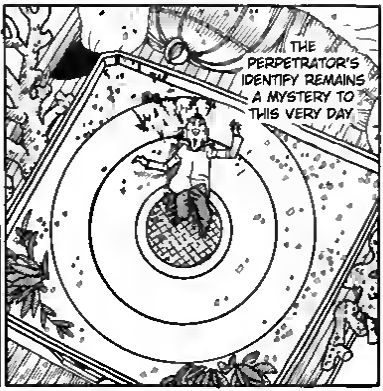

AND SO AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT HEADED BY GOKUMAZAWA WAS FORMED, AND THE OLD ESTABLISHMENT WAS COMPLETELY WIPED OUT.

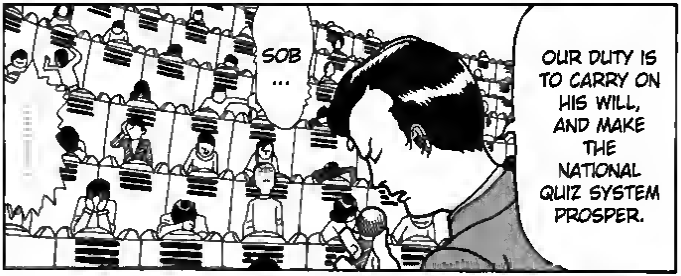

GOKUMAZAWA BEGAN RE-WRITING THE CONSTITUTION AT A FRENETIC PACE

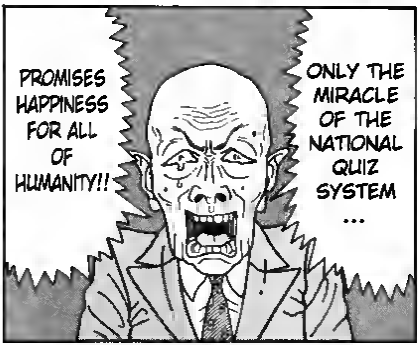
WERE THE WORDS HE USED TO SAY OVER AND OVER.
I DON'T HAVE ANY TIME...
正解屋


DURING HIS INAUGURATION PARADE AS PRIME MINISTER ...
AND THEN... THE DREADED DAY ARRIVED.
TRAGEDY OCCURRED.


AUGUST 15TH, THE DAY HE WAS FELLED BY A BULLET, WAS ESTABLISHED AS "NATIONAL QUIZ DAY."


THE PERPETRATOR'S IDENTIFY REMAINS A MYSTERY TO THIS VERY DAY.


SOB ...
OUR DUTY IS TO CARRY ON HIS WILL, AND MAKE THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM PROSPER.


PROMISES HAPPINESS FOR ALL OF HUMANITY!!
ONLY THE MIRACLE OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM ...

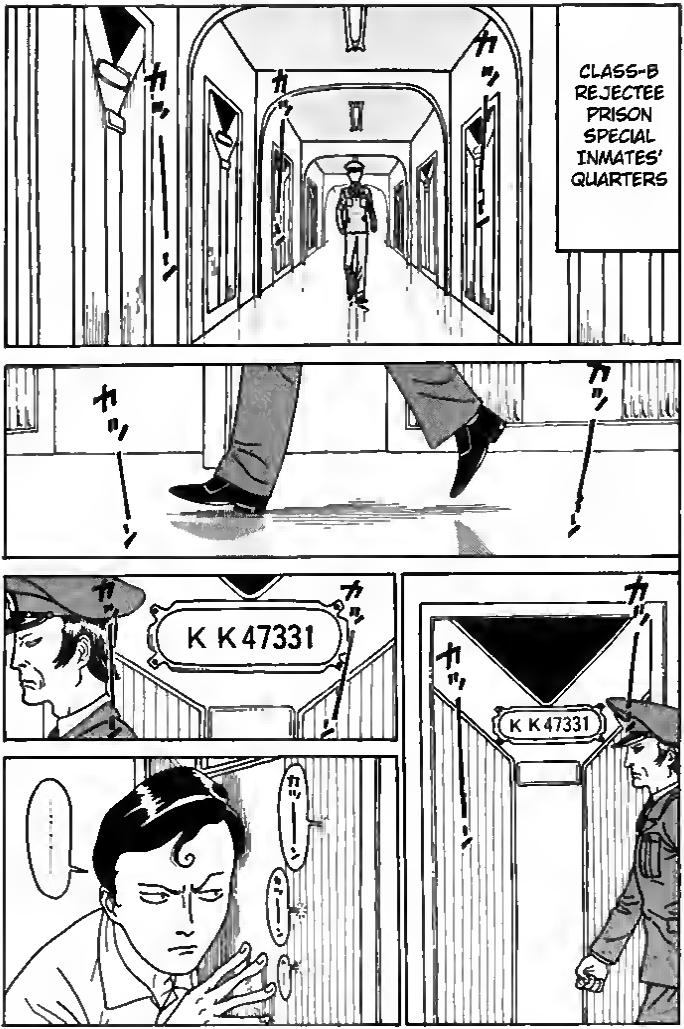
THAT'S RIGHT!!

YOUR WORDS REPRESENT THE ENTIRE NATION!!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!
ガシッ

GO, GRAMPS !!
THAT'S RIGHT!

THANK YOU!!
CHAPTER 30 NATIONAL QUIZ DAY / END

第31話
BEGIN TRANSMISSION
TRANSLATOR:
EMPEROR KETCHUP


CLASS-B
REJECTEE
PRISON
SPECIAL
INMATES'
QUARTERS
K K 47331
K K 47331

SQUEAK
SQUEAK

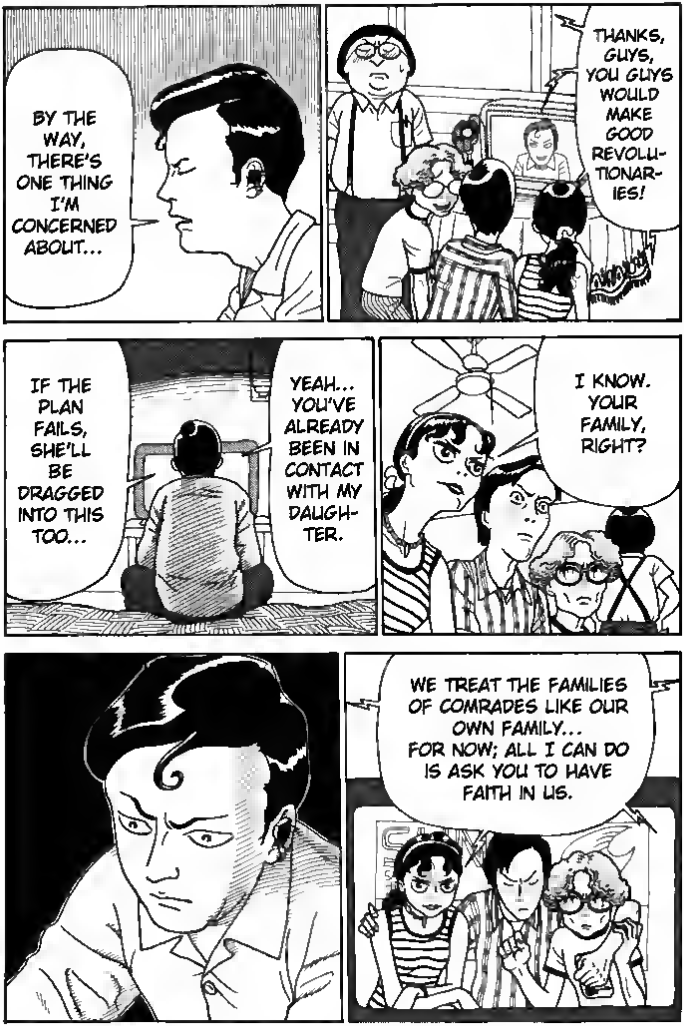
KA-PING
PIP
PIP
IT'S ALMOST TIME...
SHN
SADOGASHIMA HIMITSU NETWORK
YOSHIDA CONNECTS WITH A LEFT HOOK!

K-I, CAN YOU SEE ME?
THERE YOU ARE!
OH ...
HOW ABOUT YOU? AM I SHOWING UP ON YOUR SCREEN?
YEAH, I'M GETTING GOOD RECEP-TION.
HAHA ...
YES, THE PICTURE'S A BIT OFF-FOCUS, BUT IT MAKES YOU SEEM MORE HANDSOME.

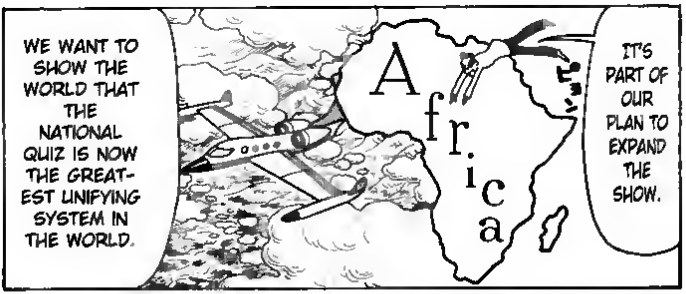
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO RETRIEVE UNLESS YOU HAVE THAT DECODER.
THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY: THE SIGNAL GETS SCRAMBLED BEFORE IT'S TRANSMITTED.
ARE YOU SURE THIS SIGNAL WON'T SHOW UP ON SOMEONE ELSE'S TV?
ON THE ROOF OF A CONDO...
WHERE ARE YOU BROADCASTING FROM?
HOW IS IT?
NEAR YOUR PRISON.

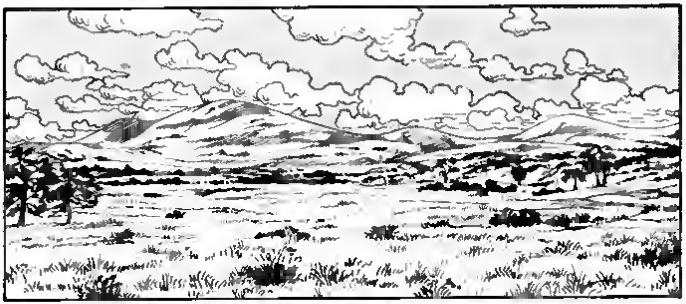
PERFECT, SO FAR.
NOW, K-I...
YOU CAN'T TURN BACK NOW...
THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM MUST BE DESTROYED.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.

YOU GUYS SHOULD SAY HELLO, TOO.
SHN
HEY
?
HOW ARE YOU DOING?
OH HEY, IT'S THE THREE BOMBERS.
WE'RE COMRADES NOW! WE LIVE AND DIE TOGETHER!
AHEM !
YEAH, WE MISUNDER-STOOD YOU.
PLEASE TRY TO FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST

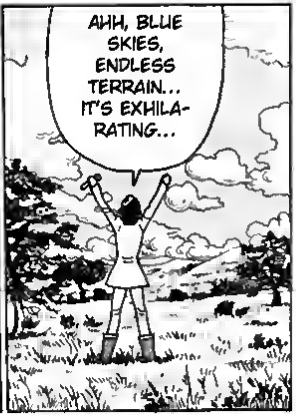

BY THE WAY, THERE'S ONE THING I'M CONCERNED ABOUT...
THANKS, GUYS, YOU GUYS WOULD MAKE GOOD REVOLU-TIONAR-IES!
IF THE PLAN FAILS, SHE'LL BE DRAGGED INTO THIS TOO...
YEAH... YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MY DAUGH-TER.
I KNOW. YOUR FAMILY, RIGHT?
WE TREAT THE FAMILIES OF COMRADES LIKE OUR OWN FAMILY... FOR NOW; ALL I CAN DO IS ASK YOU TO HAVE FAITH IN US.

THEN I GUESS WE'LL GET THIS SHOW STARTED WITH A BANG!
ポン
OK
OH YEAH, THAT OLD GUY? SATO? HE ENDED UP MAKING IT TO THE FINALS, SO HE GOT A FAIRLY LIGHT SENTENCE.
I'LL SHOW YOU A PHOTO OF OUR NEXT SUICIDE CONTESTANT AS SOON AS WE DETERMINE WHO IT'S GOING TO BE.
HE'S PROBABLY SERVING HIS TIME WITH GLEE, NOW THAT HE GOT REVENGE ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ THAT TOOK HIS SON'S LIFE.
AFRICA !?
REVENGE, HUH... I GUESS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY RESTS ON MY SHOULDERS.
GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME BEFORE YOU TRY TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME AGAIN: I'M GOING TO AFRICA AFTER THE SHOW TOMORROW.
OH... BY THE WAY.


WE WANT TO SHOW THE WORLD THAT THE NATIONAL QUIZ IS NOW THE GREATEST UNIFYING SYSTEM IN THE WORLD.
Africa
IT'S PART OF OUR PLAN TO EXPAND THE SHOW.



AFRICA!! IT'S GOOD TO BE ALIVE!!


AHH, BLUE SKIES, ENDLESS TERRAIN... IT'S EXHILARATING...

TODAY, WE'VE COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE TO ANSWER A REQUEST FOR HELP SENT IN FROM ONE OF OUR VIEWERS.
OH, HELLO

THE TRIBE MY FAMILY BELONGS TO HAS BEEN FEUDING WITH A NEIGHBORING TRIBE OVER OWNERSHIP OF THIS LAND. THEY'VE BEEN FIGHTING FOR OVER 50 YEARS!
SO WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
HELLO.
THIS IS MR. MUMBA, WHO SENT US THE LETTER
AND SO I WAS HOPING THAT YOU, MR. K-I, COULD SOMEHOW RESOLVE THIS MATTER...
YES ...
WE'VE TRIED TO NEGOTIATE ON MANY OCCASIONS, BUT EVERY TIME THE DEBATE HEATS UP, TALKS FALL APART AND THE BLOODSHED BEGINS.
I SEE, I SEE. I UNDERSTAND YOUR SITUATION VERY WELL.
ビュー
WELL HERE WE GO!
GRIN

A SPECIAL OVERSEAS EDITION OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ!!

LET'S SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH SOME TRIVIA!!
NEGOTIA-TIONS ARE A WASTE OF TIME!!

THIS LAND HAS BELONGED TO THE KAKIKU TRIBE EVER SINCE THE WORLD WAS CREATED! BUT THE GREEDY SASHISU TRIBE HAS CAMPED OUT ON IT!
HERE'S MR. NBELE, WHO REPRESENTS THE KAKIKU TRIBE WHICH MR MUMBA BELONGS TO!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!! THIS LAND HAS BELONGED TO THE SASHISU SINCE THE BIRTH OF MANKIND!
NOW WE HAVE THE LEADER OF THE SASHISU TRIBE, MR. WABANGI ANY COMMENTS !?
WELL, WE HEARD FROM THE KAKIKU
BRING IT ON!
YOU WANT TO DIE!?
WHAT !?
KILL THEM !!
YOU'RE THE ONES WHO'LL LEAVE!!

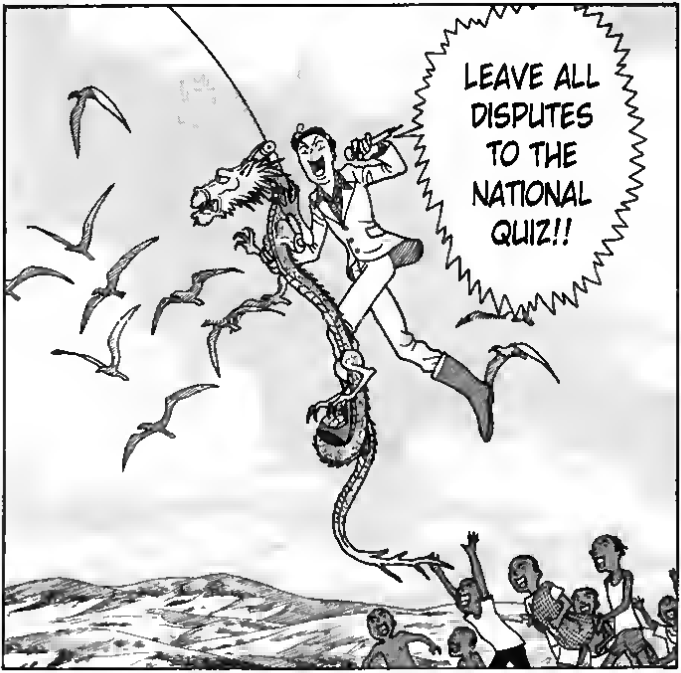
STOP IT, ALL OF YOU!!
YES ...
SO THIS IS IT, HUH, MR. MUMBA ?
WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR PROUD AFRICAN SPIRIT!?
THIS IS BEING BROADCAST TO THE ENTIRE WORLD!!
HEH, I KNOW HOW YOU'VE GOT THE HOTS FOR MY SISTER!
YOU... DO HAVE A POINT ...
HMPH! IT'S THAT COCKY COOL THAT ANNOYS ME!

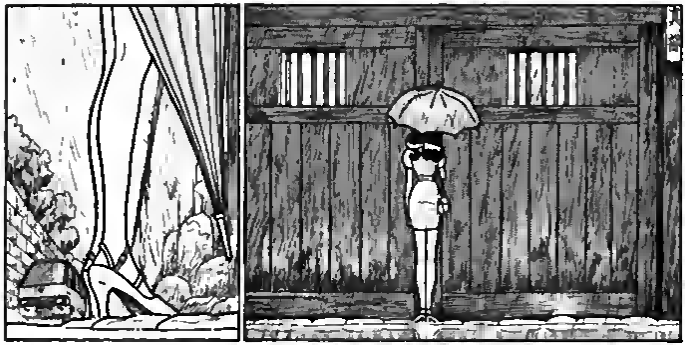
CHIEF, PLEASE WIN THIS THING!
DAMN RIGHT!
STOP TRYING TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF HER, HUH!?
プルプル
プルルル
WHAT ...
W ...
NOW.
NOW
NOW.
CONTROL YOURSELF! I'M GOING TO WIN THIS!!
NNRR GGH
HERE IS YOUR QUESTION !!
WHICH HAS BEEN GOING ON SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AND THE DAWN OF MANKIND!
WELL THEN, THE NATIONAL QUIZ WILL SETTLE THIS DISPUTE...

HOW MANY WEEKS DID MADONNA'S ALBUM "LIKE A VIRGIN"...
SPEND ON THE BILLBOARD TOP 40 CHARTS!?
KAKIKU TRIBE!!
!!
ピュオ-

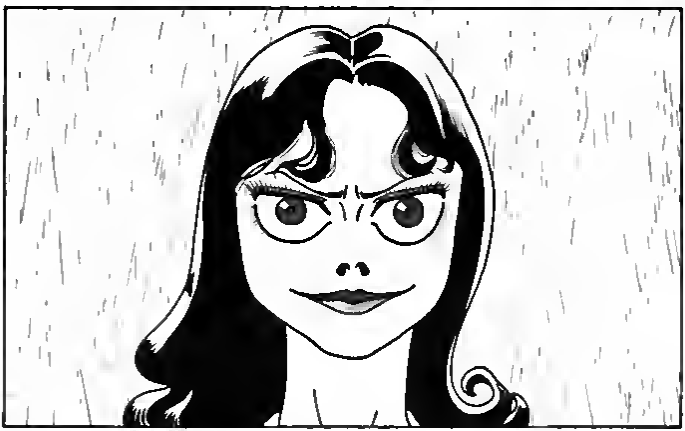
52 WEEKS !
CORRECT !!
THIS LAND NOW BELONGS TO THE KAKIKU TRIBE!!
YES !!

IT'S THE SPEEDIEST PEACEFUL RESOLUTION IN THE WORLD!!
THE NATIONAL QUIZ!


LEAVE ALL DISPUTES TO THE NATIONAL QUIZ!!



ONE VISITOR TO THE MANABE RESI-DENCE.
IT'S A YOUNG FEMALE; WE DON'T HAVE HER ON ANY OF OUR RECORDS ...



第32話

THE SECRET INTERNATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM SUMMIT

TRANSLATOR
EMPEROR
KETCHUP

BE LIKE K-I
BE K-ICHI
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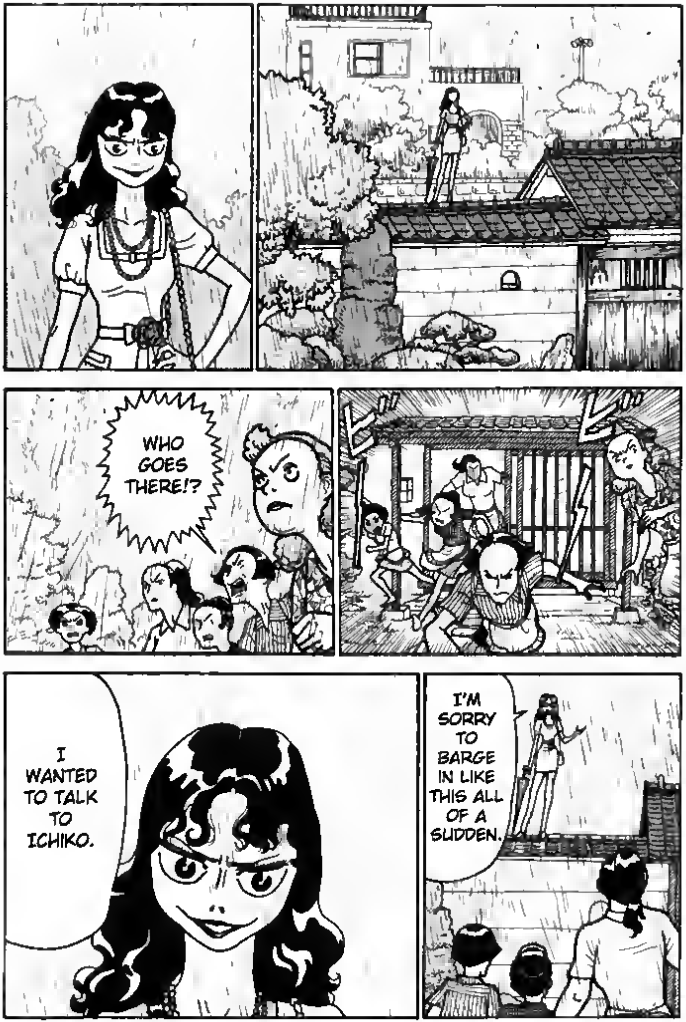
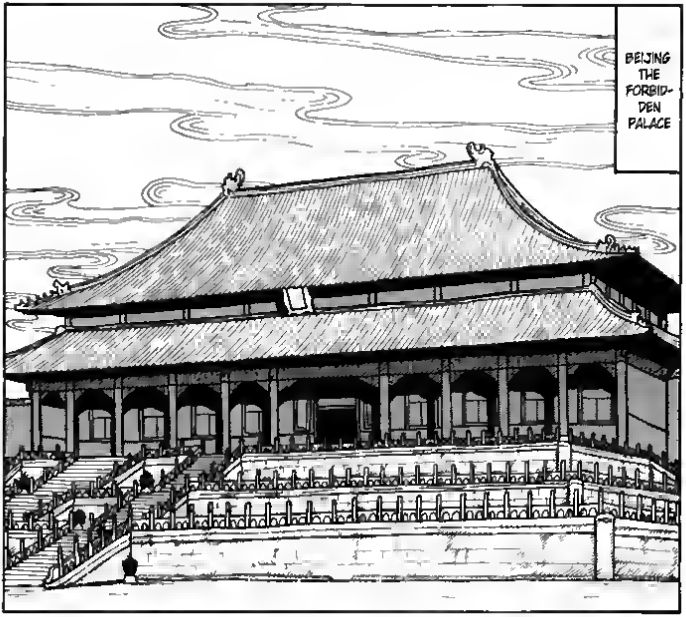
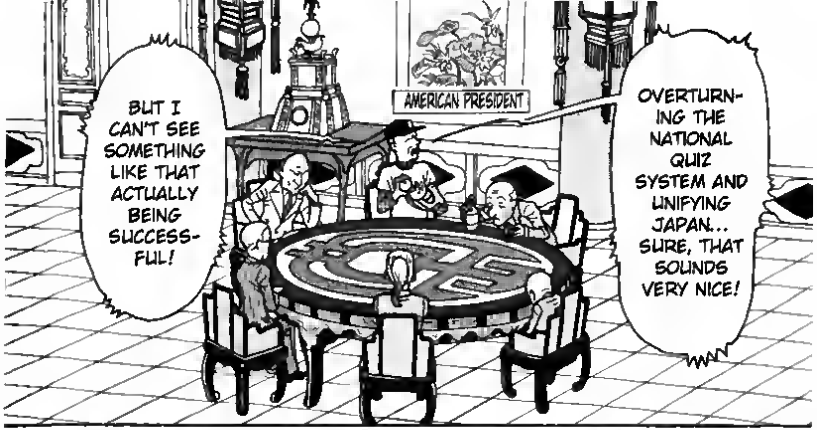
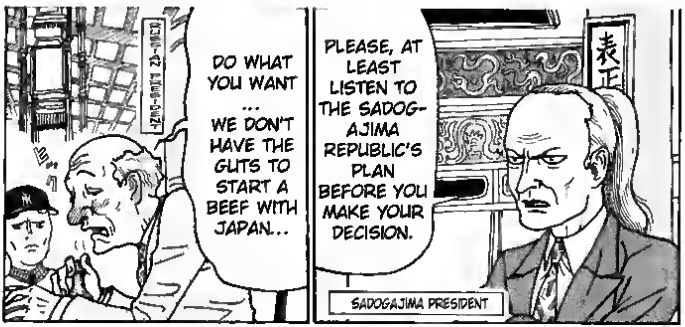

WHO GOES THERE!?
I WANTED TO TALK TO ICHIKO.
I'M SORRY TO BARGE IN LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN.

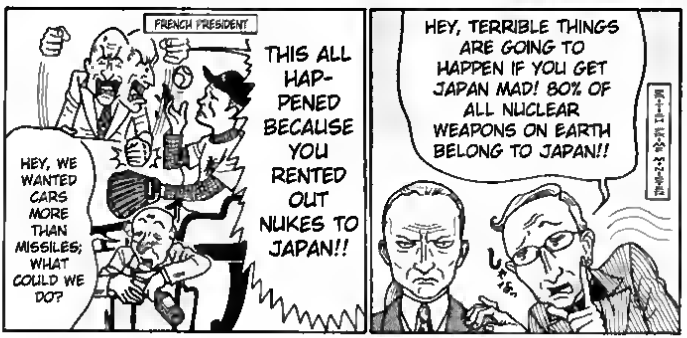
OH.. MS MANABE ...
スタスタ
MADAM.. PLEASE, LET US HANDLE THIS...
AN INTRUDER !? I'LL BEAT THEM BACK!!
ヨロ
IT'S DANGER-OUS!
YES.
MARIKO ... IS IT THAT WOMAN YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT?
!?
PLEASE COME IN.
MISS YUKI!!
ドタ


BEIJING
THE
FORBID-
DEN
PALACE

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE
!!


AMERICAN PRESIDENT
BUT I CAN'T SEE SOMETHING LIKE THAT ACTUALLY BEING SUCCESS-FUL!
OVERTURN-ING THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM AND UNIFYING JAPAN... SURE, THAT SOUNDS VERY NICE!


DO WHAT YOU WANT ... WE DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO START A BEEF WITH JAPAN...
PLEASE, AT LEAST LISTEN TO THE SADOG-AJIMA REPUBLIC'S PLAN BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR DECISION.
SADOGAJIMA PRESIDENT


FRENCH PRESIDENT
HEY, WE WANTED CARS MORE THAN MISSILES; WHAT COULD WE DO?
THIS ALL HAP-PENED BECAUSE YOU RENTED OUT NUKES TO JAPAN!!
HEY, TERRIBLE THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN IF YOU GET JAPAN MAD! 80% OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON EARTH BELONG TO JAPAN!!

MR. TOKUDA, THE OBJECTIVE OF YOUR PLAN IS TO OVERTHROW THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM. THAT'S IT, ?
YES ?
PRESIDENT TOKUDA, YOU'RE LIVING A BIT TOO DANGEROUSLY... THE EXTINCTION OF MANKIND IS NO JOKE, Y'KNOW...
I'LL DO EVERYTHING NECESSARY TO AVOID SUCH A SITUATION
OH, OK, MY HEARING'S FINE. SO IN OTHER WORDS, JAPAN WOULD REVERT BACK TO ITS OLD SELF
THAT'S NOT IT; WE WOULD TURN BACK THE CLOCK AND DECLARE ALL DECISIONS MADE BY THE NATIONAL QUIZ NULL AND VOID!!
EXACTLY !
WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO REPAY OUR DEBTS, EITHER!!
OH, SO THAT MEANS WE'D GET BACK ALL OUR LAND AND RESOURCE EXTRACTION RIGHTS WE SOLD?

ズドドドド
ALL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS SIGNED UNDER THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM WILL BE WIPED OUT, AND THE WORLD WILL RETURN TO ITS OLD ORDER!!
I TOLD YOU, I CAN HEAR YOU FINE
WITH THIS PLAN, WE CAN OVERTURN THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM FROM THE INSIDE!! NOBODY WILL HAVE TO STAND IN THE LINE OF FIRE!!
BUT WHO'S GOING TO TIE THE BELL AROUND THE TIGER'S NECK?
ブン
IF THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM COLLAPSES, WE CAN OPENLY LAUNCH AN ASSAULT ON JAPAN! IN FACT, WE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO DO SO!!
ALL I'M ASKING OF YOU PEOPLE IS THAT YOU KEEP PACE WITH ME WHEN WE ENTER THE SECOND PHASE OF OUR PLAN.

BUT WHAT IF WE FAIL?
YES!
JAPAN HAS NO GROUNDS FOR APPEAL! IF THAT HAPPENED, WE WOULDN'T HESITATE TO MOVE IN EITHER!!
JUST CAUSE WOULD BE ON OUR SIDE!!
ヒソ
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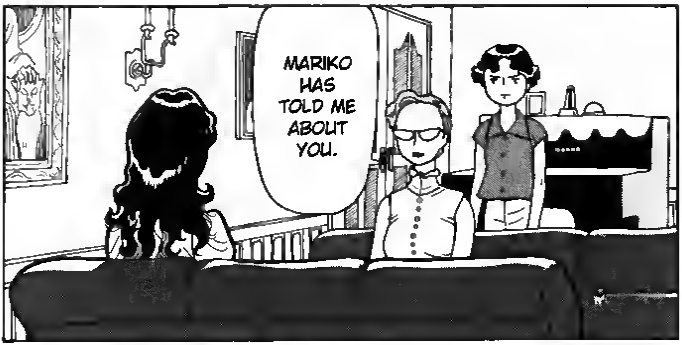
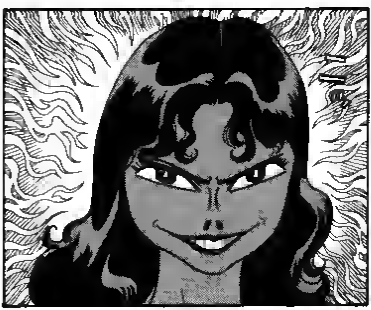
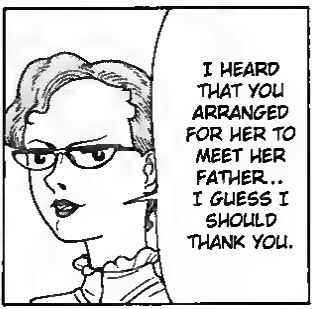
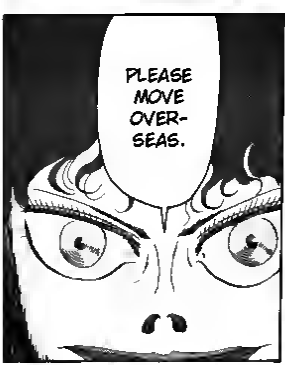
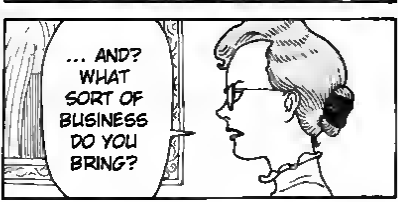
NONE OF YOUR COUNTRIES WILL FACE ANY REPERCUSSIONS.
表正萬邦
THEN THE SADOGAJIMA REPUBLIC WILL SIMPLY DISAPPEAR FROM WORLD MAPS EVERYWHERE.
THEREFORE, YOUR COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL.
IT'S QUITE OBVIOUS THAT THE UN WON'T SUPPORT THIS PLAN...

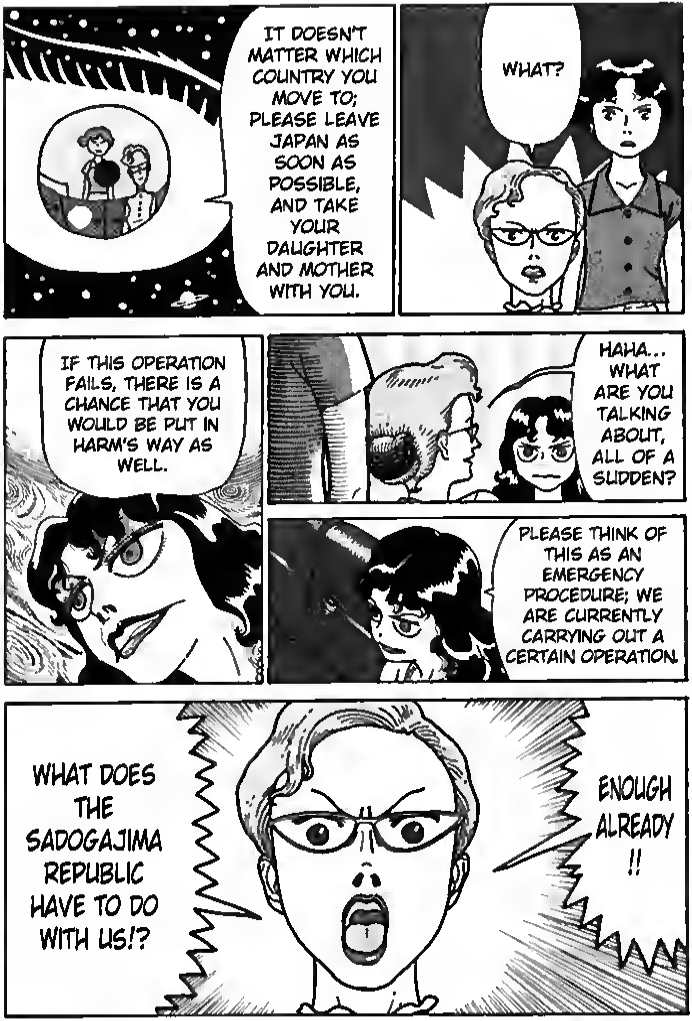

MARIKO HAS TOLD ME ABOUT YOU.



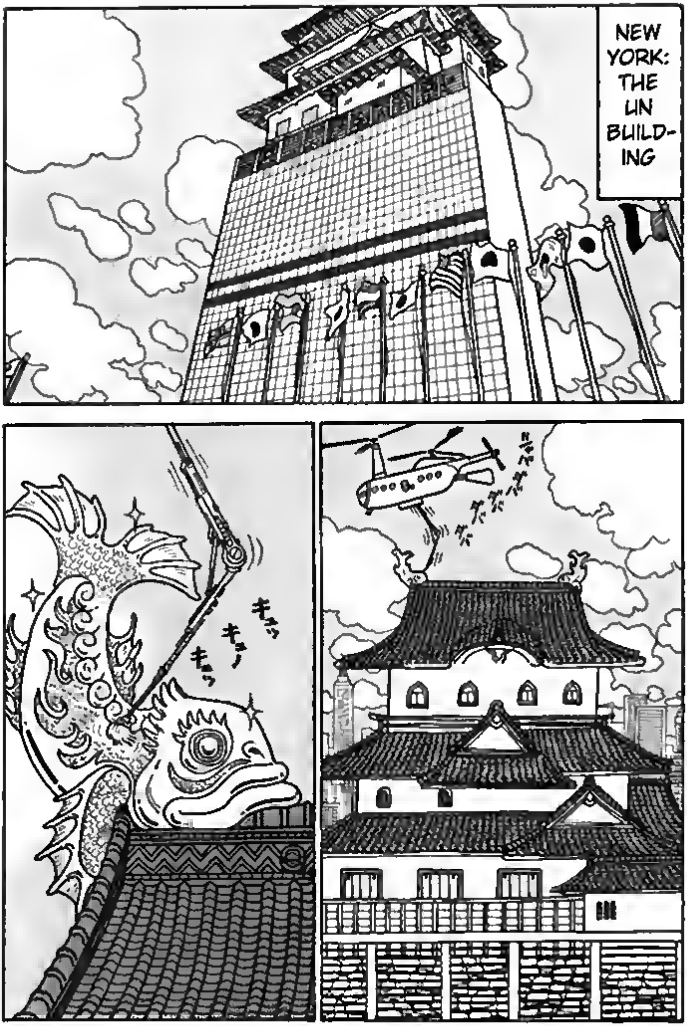

I HEARD THAT YOU ARRANGED FOR HER TO MEET HER FATHER... I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU.


PLEASE MOVE OVER-SEAS.


... AND? WHAT SORT OF BUSINESS DO YOU BRING?


IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH COUNTRY YOU MOVE TO; PLEASE LEAVE JAPAN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, AND TAKE YOUR DAUGHTER AND MOTHER WITH YOU.
WHAT?
IF THIS OPERATION FAILS, THERE IS A CHANCE THAT YOU WOULD BE PUT IN HARM'S WAY AS WELL.
HAHA... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
PLEASE THINK OF THIS AS AN EMERGENCY PROCEDURE; WE ARE CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT A CERTAIN OPERATION.
WHAT DOES THE SADOGAJIMA REPUBLIC HAVE TO DO WITH US!?
ENOUGH ALREADY !!

I AM THE PRESIDENT OF MANABE INDUSTRIES, I CAN'T JUST PACK UP AND LEAVE!! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!!
AT THE VERY LEAST, I SUGGEST THAT YOU LIQUIDATE ALL OF YOUR ASSETS AND TRANSFER THEM OVER-SEAS.
PLEASE LEAVE!!
!!
K-I K-ICHI WILL BE A FREE MAN IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE.
FOR ALL 3 OF YOU TO LIVE AS A FAMILY ...
THIS IS THE FINAL CHANCE ...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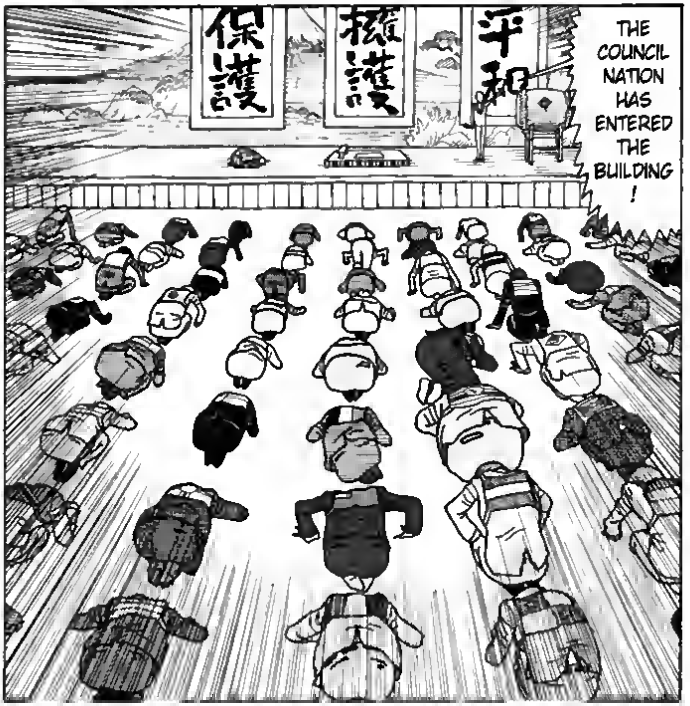
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擁護の
保護
THE COUNCIL NATION HAS ENTERED THE BUILDING!

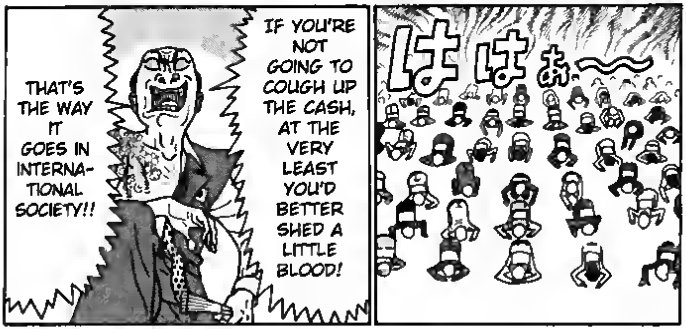
RAISE YOUR HEADS !!
ALL IN ATTENDANCE ...

WELL, SECRETARY-GENERAL? WHAT'S FIRST UP ON OUR AGENDA TODAY?
SIR!
THAT WOULD BE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM IN LATIN AMERICA. CIVIL WAR HAS DRIVEN 2 MILLION PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES, AND THEY ARE SUFFERING FROM STARVATION.
CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ARE RUNNING RAMPANT AS WELL. THERE IS A DIRE NEED FOR FOOD AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES.
JESUS, THE POOR SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO HAVE WARS
ANY OF YOU MEMBER NATIONS WILLING TO HELP OUT A LITTLE?
WELL, WE WOULD LOVE TO OFFER AID, BUT ...
EHH.. HEHE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, UNITED STATES? WHY DON'T YOU HELP A NEIGHBOR OUT?
GULP

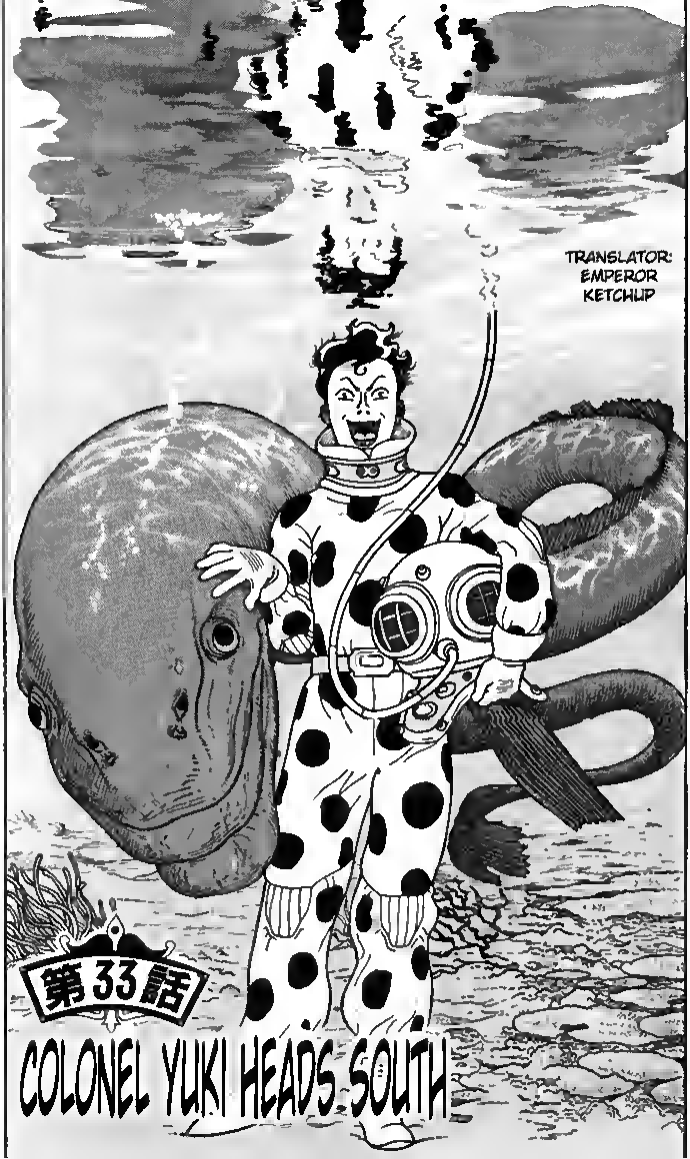
HEH, YOU TURN TO US TO HELP CLEAN UP THE MESS. EVERY TIME!!
PLEASE FORGIVE US!
WE STOPPED THINKING OF OURSELVES AS "POLICEMEN OF THE WORLD" A LONG TIME AGO
ペコペコ
OH, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
ドド
ALL RIGHT! JAPAN WILL SEND THEM $10 BILLION FOR NOW!
ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AREN'T HAVING THE DESIRED EFFECTS, AND WE FEEL THAT PERHAPS IT IS TIME FOR MILITARY INTERVENTION...
IT'S HAITI.
NEXT!

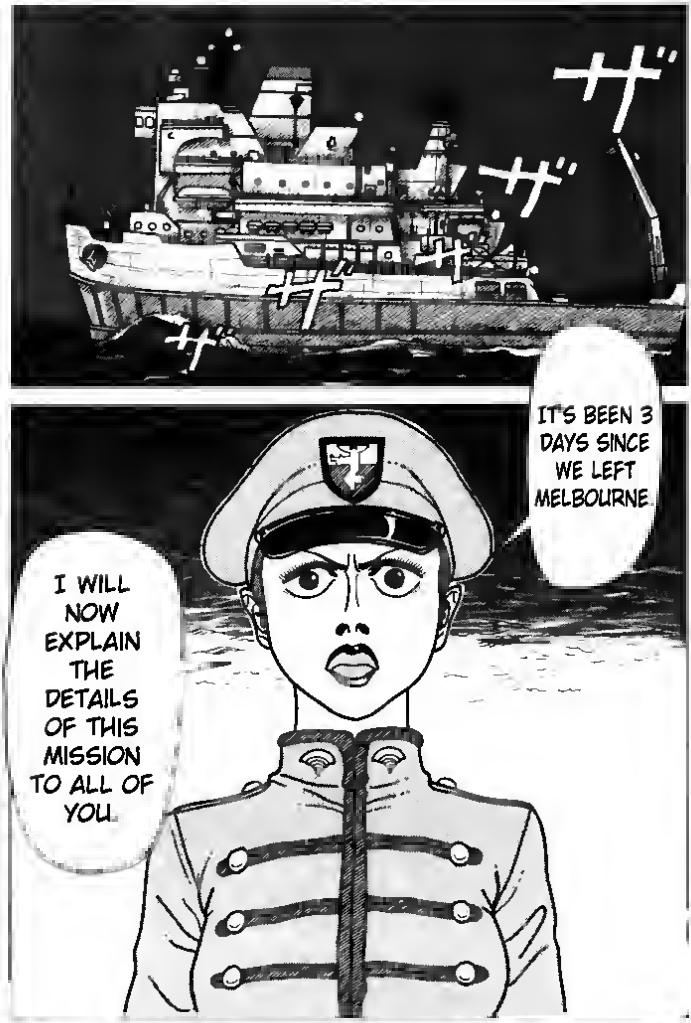
ANY NATIONS OPPOSED TO MILITARY INTERVENTION?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO...
EXERCISE YOUR VETO POWERS?
PLEASE DO AS YOU WISH...
RIGHT
YES, YES ...
C'MON, C'MON! ALL OF YOU TALK LIKE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING STUCK IN YOUR TEETH!!
だんっ
DON'T ANY OF YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO JUST SAY "I WANT TO SEE SOME BLOOD!?"

*PEACE-KEEPING FORCE


THAT'S THE WAY IT GOES IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY!!
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO COUGH UP THE CASH, AT THE VERY LEAST YOU'D BETTER SHED A LITTLE BLOOD!

DID ICHIKO LET YOU THROUGH?
YOU VISITED MY PLACE, RIGHT?
CLASS-B REJEC-TEE PRISON
EVEN THOUGH YOU ULTIMATELY FAILED, YOU WERE HER HUSBAND FOR A WHILE: THAT'S WORTHY OF SOME RESPECT.
QUIT TEASING ME!
THE EMPLOYEES ARE ONTO SOMETHING WHEN THEY CALL HER "A BUDDHA WITH HORNS" BEHIND HER BACK
SHE WAS QUITE A HANDFUL; SHE'S NOT THE PRESIDENT OF MANABE INDUSTRIES FOR NOTHING
WELL? WHEN ARE WE CARRYING OUT OUR NEXT PLAN?


TRANSLATOR:
EMPEROR
KETCHUP
第33話
COLONEL YUKI HEADS SOUTH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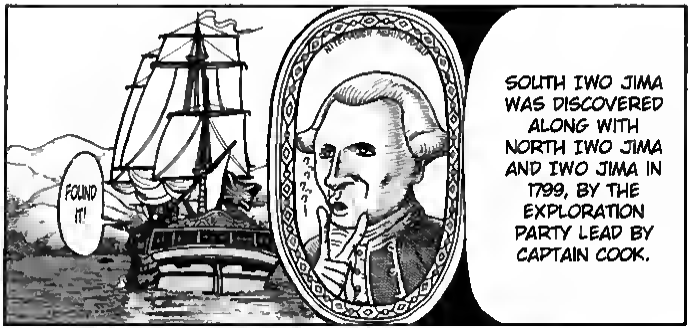
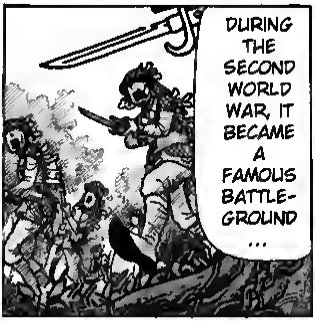
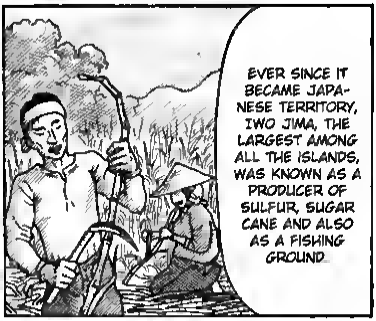
IT'S BEEN 3 DAYS SINCE WE LEFT MELBOURNE.
I WILL NOW EXPLAIN THE DETAILS OF THIS MISSION TO ALL OF YOU.

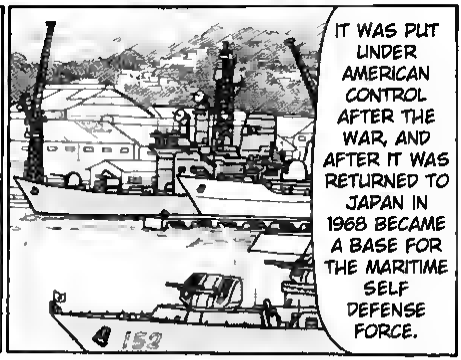
THESE ARE THE OGASAWARA ISLANDS.
カッ
UNTIL OKINOTORISHIMA WAS DISCOVERED, IT WAS THE SOUTHERN MOST TERRITORY IN JAPAN.
カッ
OUR DESTINATION, SOUTH IWO JIMA, IS AN ISLAND LOCATED SOUTH OF THE OGASAWARA ISLANDS.
AND APPROXIMATELY 1 DEGREE NORTH OF TOKYO IN LONGITUDE.
IT IS LOCATED 4 DEGREES NORTH OF HAWAII IN LATITUDE ...
ITS COORDINATES ARE 35' 43' NORTH AND 141' 43' EAST.

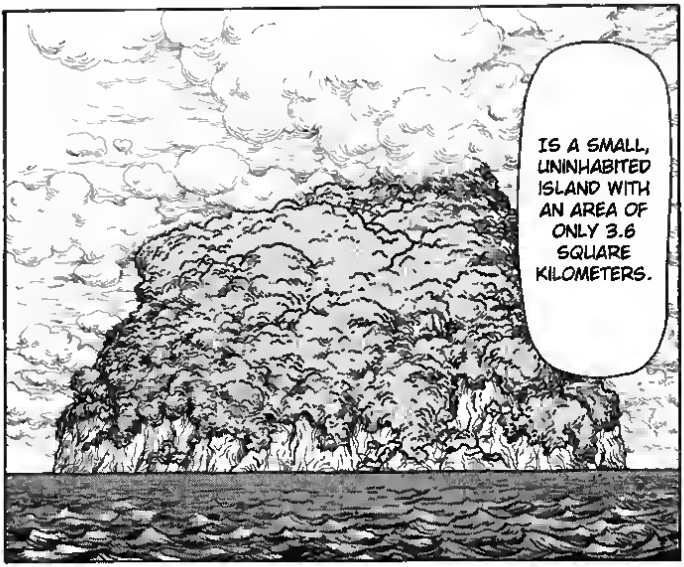

FOUND IT!
SOUTH IWO JIMA WAS DISCOVERED ALONG WITH NORTH IWO JIMA AND IWO JIMA IN 1799, BY THE EXPLORATION PARTY LEAD BY CAPTAIN COOK.


DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, IT BECAME A FAMOUS BATTLE-GROUND ...

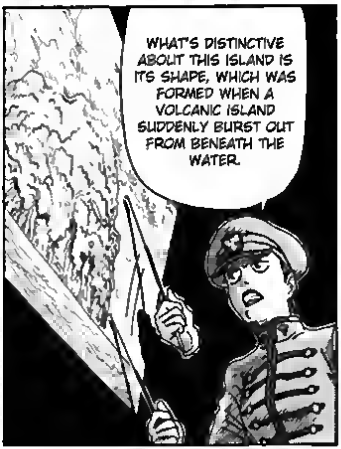

EVER SINCE IT BECAME JAPANESE TERRITORY, IWO JIMA, THE LARGEST AMONG ALL THE ISLANDS, WAS KNOWN AS A PRODUCER OF SULFUR, SUGAR CANE AND ALSO AS A FISHING GROUND.

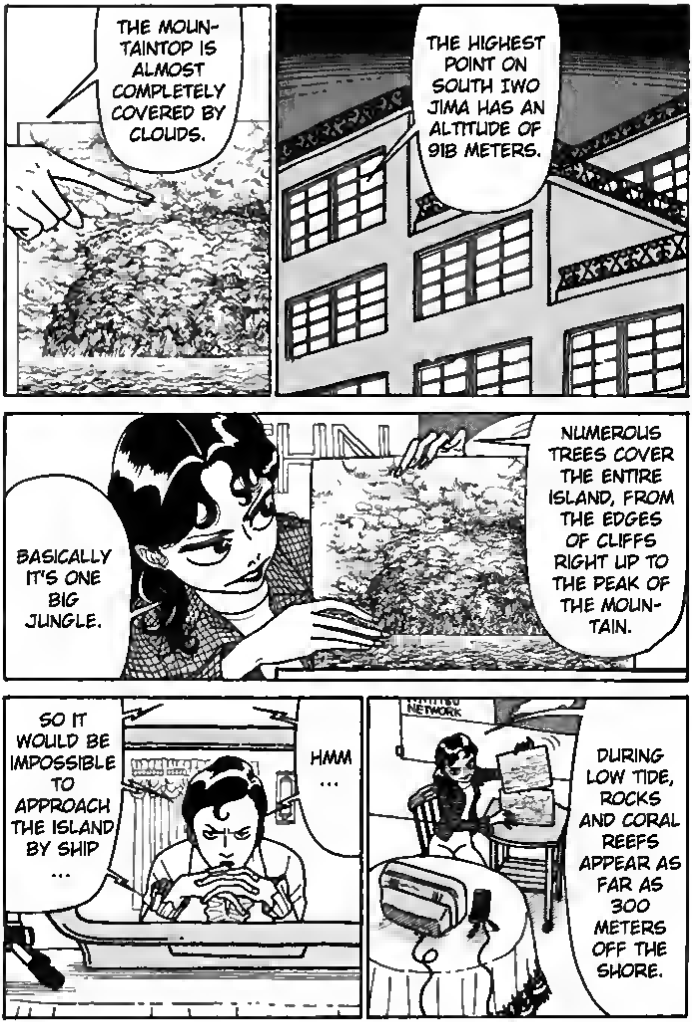
ON THE OTHER HAND, SOUTH IWO JIMA...

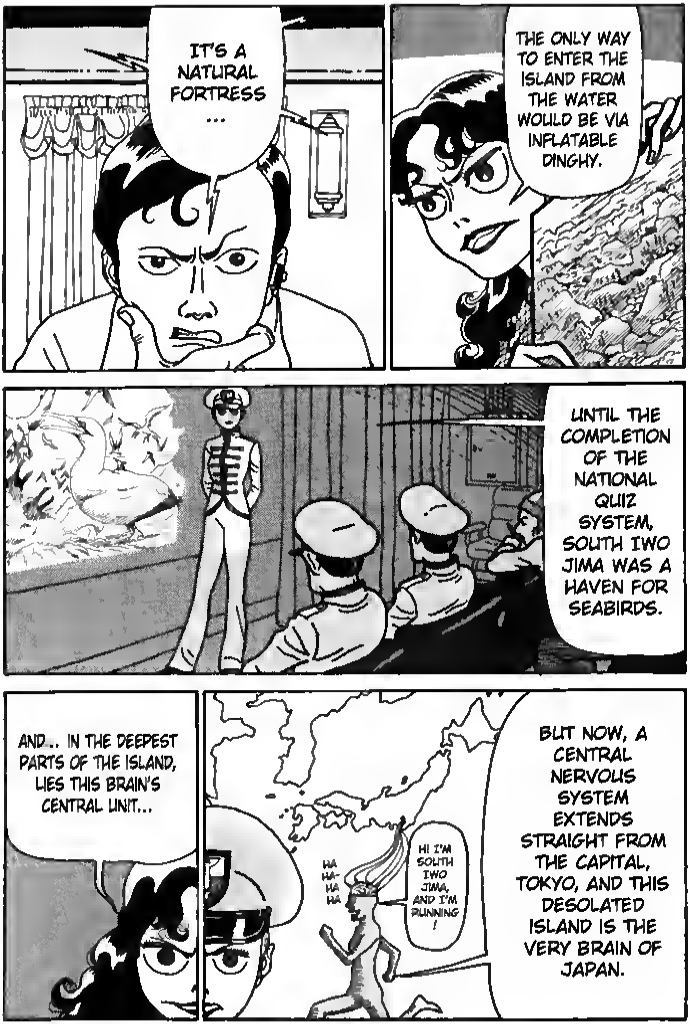

IT WAS PUT UNDER AMERICAN CONTROL AFTER THE WAR, AND AFTER IT WAS RETURNED TO JAPAN IN 1968 BECAME A BASE FOR THE MARITIME SELF DEFENSE FORCE.


IS A SMALL, UNINHABITED ISLAND WITH AN AREA OF ONLY 3.6 SQUARE KILOMETERS.

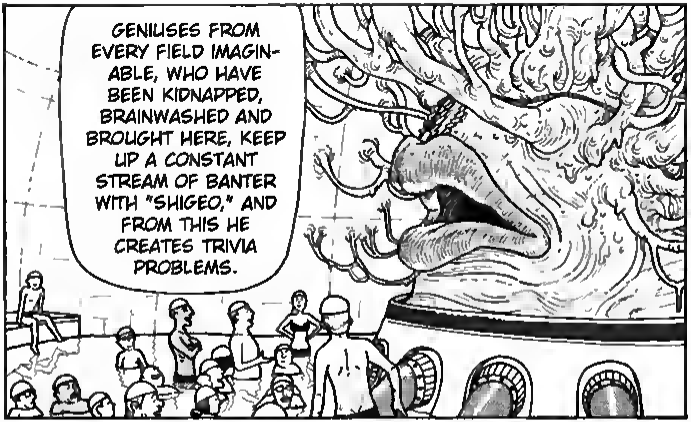
THERE ARE ABSOLUTELY NO FLAT PLAINS ON THE ISLAND, LET ALONE BEACHES.

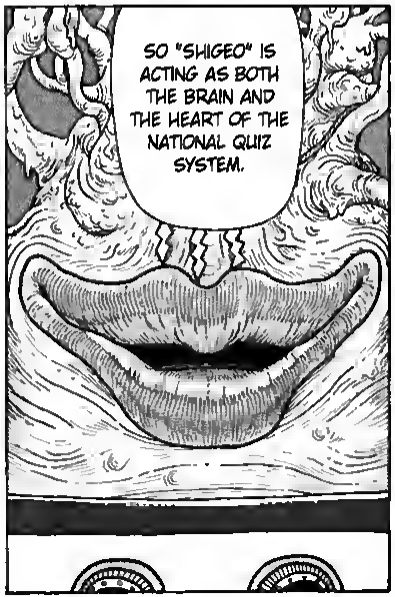

WHAT'S DISTINCTIVE ABOUT THIS ISLAND IS ITS SHAPE, WHICH WAS FORMED WHEN A VOLCANIC ISLAND SUDDENLY BURST OUT FROM BENEATH THE WATER.

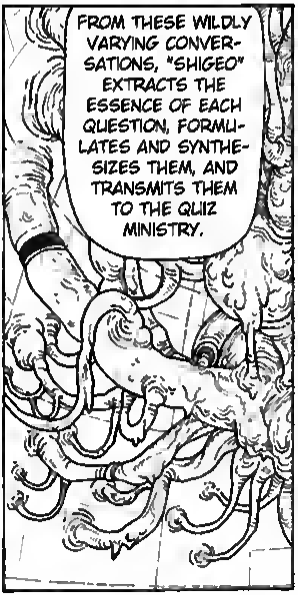

THE MOUNTAINTOP IS ALMOST COMPLETELY COVERED BY CLOUDS.
THE HIGHEST POINT ON SOUTH IWO JIMA HAS AN ALTITUDE OF 918 METERS.
BASICALLY IT'S ONE BIG JUNGLE.
NUMEROUS TREES COVER THE ENTIRE ISLAND, FROM THE EDGES OF CLIFFS RIGHT UP TO THE PEAK OF THE MOUNTAIN.
SO IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO APPROACH THE ISLAND BY SHIP ...
HMM ...
DURING LOW TIDE, ROCKS AND CORAL REEFS APPEAR AS FAR AS 300 METERS OFF THE SHORE.

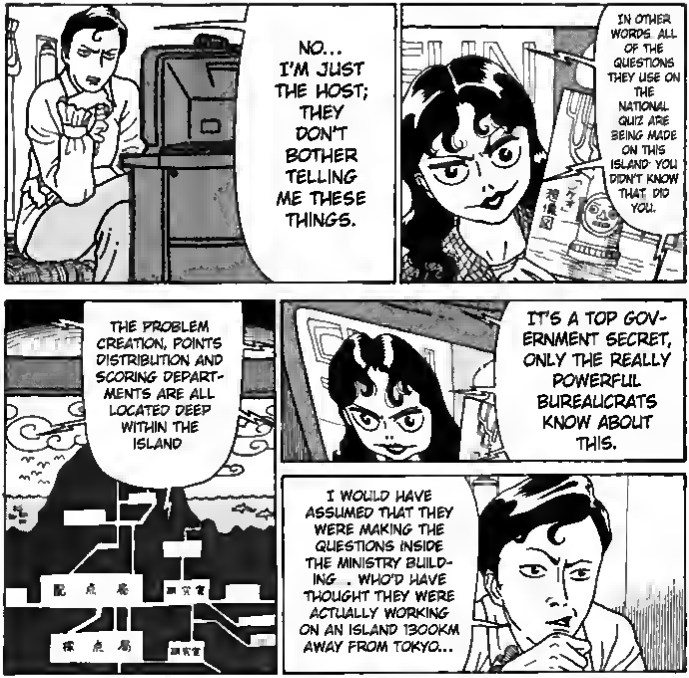

IT'S A NATURAL FORTRESS ...
THE ONLY WAY TO ENTER THE ISLAND FROM THE WATER WOULD BE VIA INFLATABLE DINGHY.
UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM, SOUTH IWO JIMA WAS A HAVEN FOR SEABIRDS.
AND... IN THE DEEPEST PARTS OF THE ISLAND, LIES THIS BRAIN'S CENTRAL UNIT...
HA-HA-HA-HA
HI! I'M SOUTH IWO JIMA, AND I'M RUNNING !
BUT NOW, A CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM EXTENDS STRAIGHT FROM THE CAPITAL, TOKYO, AND THIS DESOLATED ISLAND IS THE VERY BRAIN OF JAPAN.

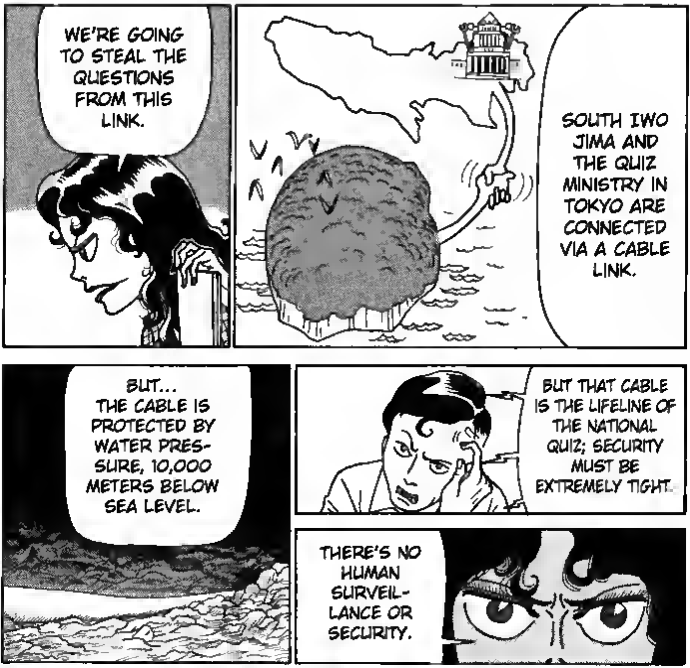
THE GIANT ORGANIC COMPUTER, "SHIGEO!!"


GENIUSES FROM EVERY FIELD IMAGINABLE, WHO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPED, BRAINWASHED AND BROUGHT HERE, KEEP UP A CONSTANT STREAM OF BANTER WITH "SHIGEO," AND FROM THIS HE CREATES TRIVIA PROBLEMS.


SO "SHIGEO" IS ACTING AS BOTH THE BRAIN AND THE HEART OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM.


FROM THESE WILDLY VARYING CONVERSATIONS, "SHIGEO" EXTRACTS THE ESSENCE OF EACH QUESTION, FORMULATES AND SYNTHESIZES THEM, AND TRANSMITS THEM TO THE QUIZ MINISTRY.


NO... I'M JUST THE HOST; THEY DON'T BOTHER TELLING ME THESE THINGS.
IN OTHER WORDS, ALL OF THE QUESTIONS THEY USE ON THE NATIONAL QUIZ ARE BEING MADE ON THIS ISLAND! YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT DID YOU.
THE PROBLEM CREATION, POINTS DISTRIBUTION AND SCORING DEPARTMENTS ARE ALL LOCATED DEEP WITHIN THE ISLAND
IT'S A TOP GOVERNMENT SECRET, ONLY THE REALLY POWERFUL BUREAUCRATS KNOW ABOUT THIS.
I WOULD HAVE ASSUMED THAT THEY WERE MAKING THE QUESTIONS INSIDE THE MINISTRY BUILDING . WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THEY WERE ACTUALLY WORKING ON AN ISLAND 1300KM AWAY FROM TOKYO...
OUR DESTINATION IS HERE: THE OGASAWARA TRENCH!
ドド!
OF COURSE, WE WON'T BE GOING ANYWHERE NEAR SOUTH IWO JIMA.


WE'RE GOING TO STEAL THE QUESTIONS FROM THIS LINK.
SOUTH IWO JIMA AND THE QUIZ MINISTRY IN TOKYO ARE CONNECTED VIA A CABLE LINK.
BUT... THE CABLE IS PROTECTED BY WATER PRESSURE, 10,000 METERS BELOW SEA LEVEL.
BUT THAT CABLE IS THE LIFELINE OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ; SECURITY MUST BE EXTREMELY TIGHT.
THERE'S NO HUMAN SURVEILLANCE OR SECURITY.
YES... WITH ANY ORDINARY VEHICLE, WE'D BE CRUSHED BY THE WATER PRESSURE.
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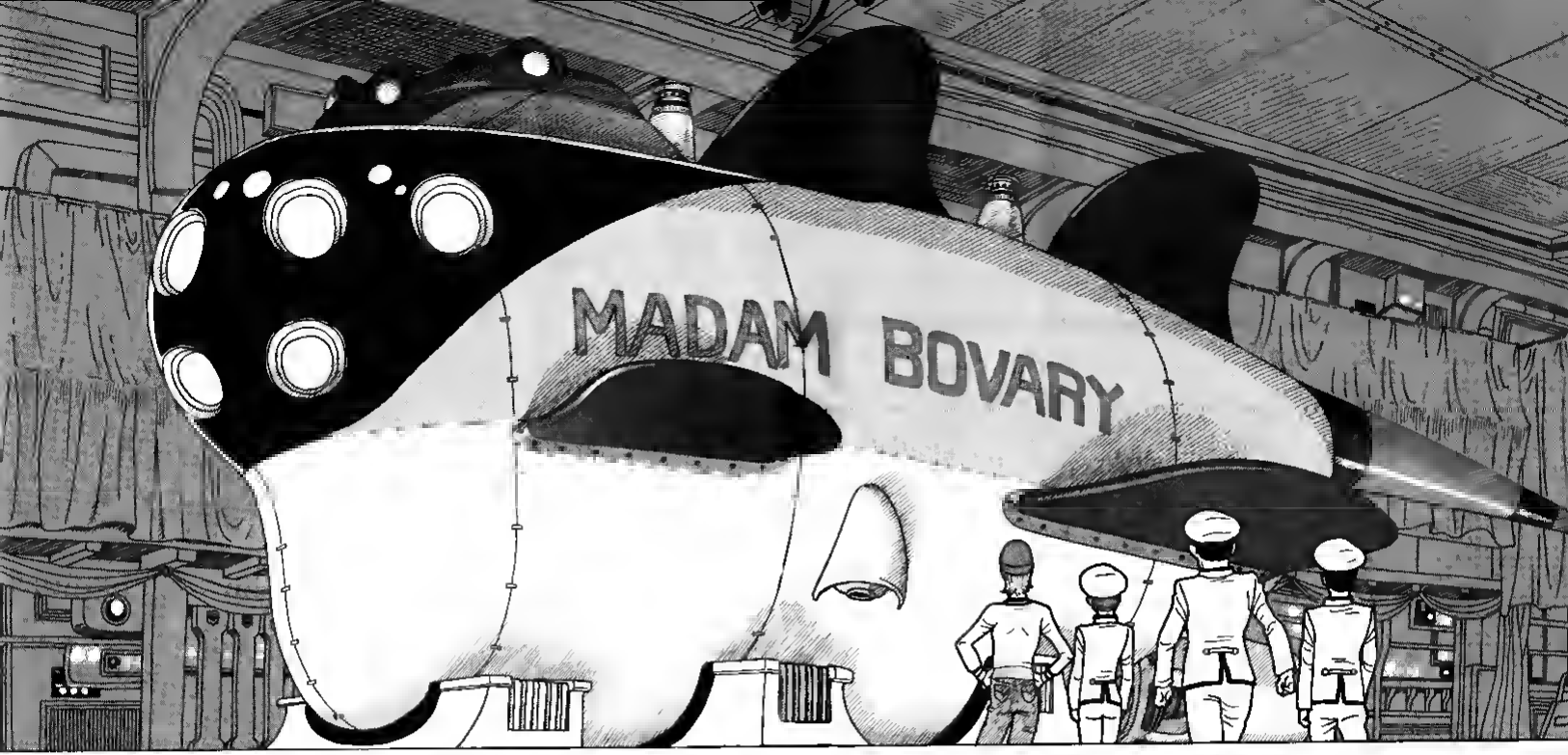
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE PLANNING ON DIVING DOWN TO THAT DEPTH!? EVEN THE LATEST NUCLEAR SUBS CAN'T MANAGE MUCH MORE THAN 500 METERS!


MADAM BOVARY

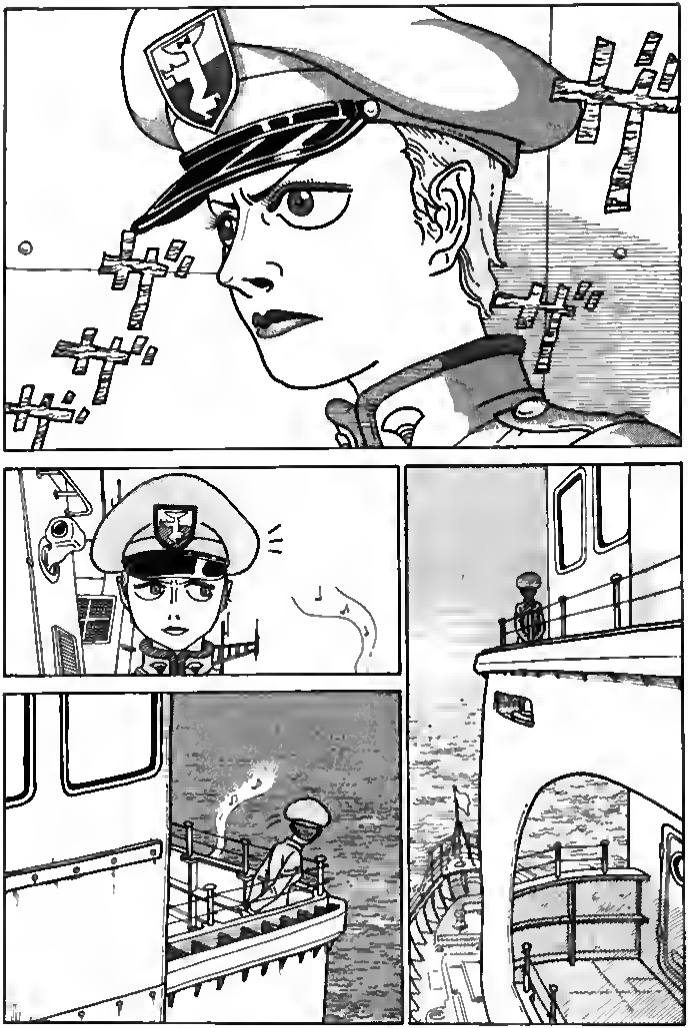
WHETHER OR NOT THIS CRAFT CAN DESCEND TO THE BOTTOM OF THE OGASAWARA TRENCH
THE QUESTION IS ...

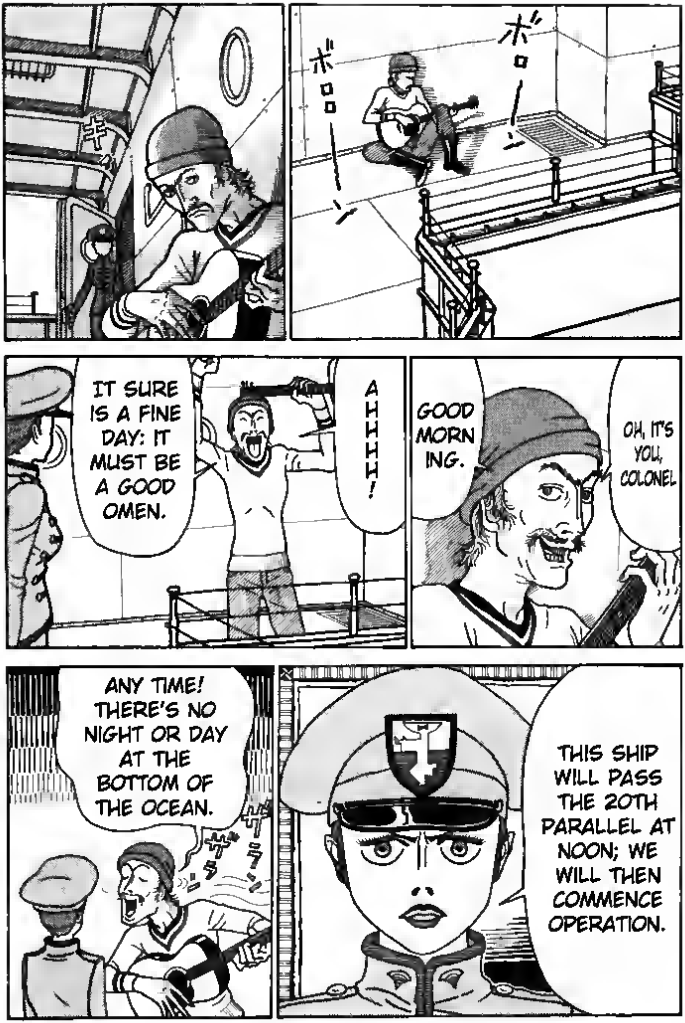
OF COURSE, THAT'S WHAT ANYONE "WITH COMMON SENSE" WOULD SAY...
DESCENDING 10,000 METERS IS JUST INSANE, COLONEL! IT CAN'T BE DONE!
WELL, COMMON SENSE WOULD DICTATE...
A GRANNY COULD DO HER KNITTING INSIDE WHILE SHE WITH-STOOD THE PRESSURES AT 10,000 METERS.
THIS BABY HERE THAT I DESIGNED IS NOTHING LIKE ANY OF THOSE OTHER TUBS.
HA HA HA!
WELL, ACTUALLY THE FAR-THEST I'VE DESCENDED IS 6,000 METERS.
CAN I TRUST YOU?

ALL I NEED IS THE FACT THAT YES, THIS CRAFT CAN DESCENT TO 10,000 METERS.
WE CAN'T RELY ON OPTIMISTIC GUESSES OR WISHFUL THINKING.
THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE COULDN'T DO IT.
BOVARY
I KNOW, I KNOW. BOVARY AND I ARE, TO USE AN EASTERN EXPRESSION, LIKE YIN AND YANG!
HAHA-HAHA
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, COLONEL ?
AND THE FACT IS YOU HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO RELY ON ME AND MY SKILLS...

YES, A DEEP-SEA VESSEL AND AN ENGINEER ARE HEADING TO OGASAWARA WITH THE REST OF THE GROUP.
I SEE... SO FRANCE IS SECRETLY PROVIDING SUPPORT...
HOW'D YOU FIND A NUTCASE WHO WAS WILLING TO TAKE ON SUCH RISK?
AN ENGINEER, HUH ...
I HEAR HE VOLUNTEERED FOR THE TASK.
ALL I CAN DO IS HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE MISSION DOESN'T FAIL.
WELL, I CAN'T GET INVOLVED UP UNTIL THE VERY END...
I SEE... WELL I GUESS HE'S AFTER THE REWARD HE'LL GET WHEN THE MISSION SUCCEEDS.

MY SISTER IS GOING TO BE ON THAT MISSION TOO.
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION...
WHAT !?
MY SISTER IS A COLONEL WITH THE SADOGA-JIMA REPUBLIC'S NATIONAL GUARD...
SHE'S THE HEAD OF THIS OPERA-TION.

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OH, IT'S YOU, COLONEL
GOOD MORN ING.
AHHH!
IT SURE IS A FINE DAY: IT MUST BE A GOOD OMEN.
THIS SHIP WILL PASS THE 20TH PARALLEL AT NOON; WE WILL THEN COMMENCE OPERATION.
ANY TIME! THERE'S NO NIGHT OR DAY AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.

HEHEHE... DON'T LOOK SO MAD; YOU'LL GET WRINKLES.
I DON'T HAVE ANY INTENTIONS OF COMMITTING SUICIDE ALONG WITH YOUR PRIDE AS AN ENGINEER, SO KEEP THAT IN MIND.
I DON'T PLAN ON DYING BEFORE OVERSEEING THE COLLAPSE OF THE NATIONAL QUIZ SYSTEM.
I'M A GENIUS WHEN IT COMES TO HAPPY ENDINGS, COLONEL!
WE'LL SUCCEED.